

# SOCCER

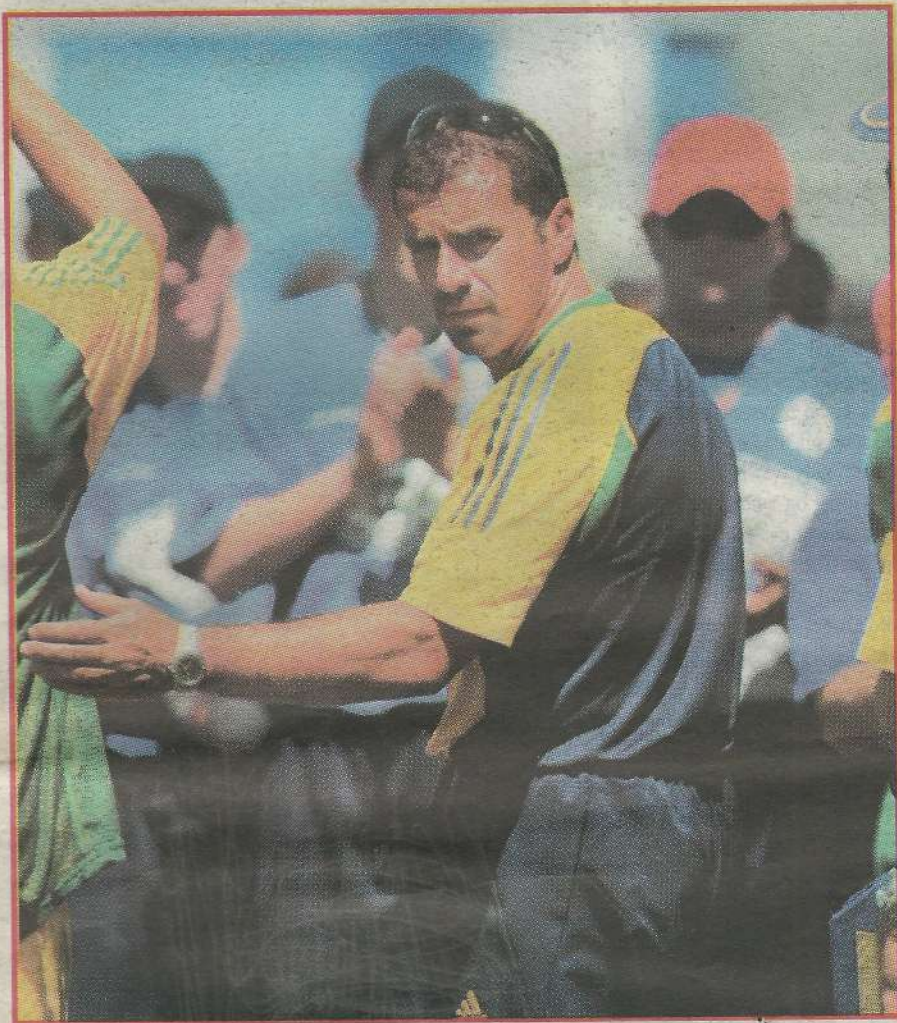
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GST INCLUSIVE

## JOEYS FAIL IN WORLD CUP QUEST



Its 'Bye Bye' Finland for Ange Postecoglou and his troops.

**T**he quest for our U17 Australian side going through to the next phase of the World Cup came to an abrupt end last Sunday morning when it failed to defeat African nation Nigeria in their second match.

After sustaining a two-nil loss in its debut match against Argentina, the Nigerian clash was a must win for the young Joeys side.

The scoreboard however told the tale of the story with the Joeys crashing to a two-one defeat to the African side.

Qantas Joeys coach Ange Postecoglou was gutted for his players following their loss to Nigeria and believes some harsh lessons have been learned from the side's minimal preparation for the tournament.

"I am very disappointed obviously," said Postecoglou.

"We were in a good position and have worked really hard to win the game and in 15 minutes the game has been taken away from them."

"The players are hugely disappointed. The boys were in tears after the game and didn't want to leave the ground afterwards."

The end of the match was in total contrast to the start, when Australia had the lead after just two minutes.

"Obviously it was a great start as we scored in just the 2nd minute. I think we caught them a little by surprise by changing formation and

even after the goal we had the better of play for the first quarter of the game.

"Nigeria worked their way back into before half time and Nick Crossley had a couple of saves to make and as expected we knew they would throw everything at us in the second half.

"I thought we coped very well with Crossley (pictured) outstanding in goals and we had a few half chances.

"Then in the 70th minute, Dez Giraldo had a great chance to put us two up and unfortunately he couldn't take it and they go down the other end and score from a long range effort.

"They then had the momentum and got the second and we couldn't get back into it."

With the obvious disappointment the task now facing Postecoglou is to get the boys up for the match with Costa Rica.

"They are devastated, but we will get them up for it. The players still have a lot to play for as far as their international future goes.

"We want to leave the Championships with at least one win and Costa Rica still have a bit to play for.

"They (Costa Rica) will not be easy, as they held Argentina for something like 80 minutes and they can still qualify if they beat us and

Argentina beat Nigeria."

Postecoglou does not expect to change too much for the final match and looking at several players to put their hands up for the Under 20's that will be played late this year in the United Arab Emirates.

"Jacob Timpano was again terrific for us last night and he is definitely a player I am keen to fast-track through the system and is a chance for the Under 20's later this year.

"The defence did really well as did Nick Crossley, who was brought here for experience and ended up being the No.1 keeper and has been outstanding in his two matches."

"In the end it was a lack of international exposure that cost us here and I will be looking to push a couple through to the 20's and keep them a step ahead for the next World Championship, which they will still be eligible for."

Speaking from Finland, striker Richie Cardozo explained his disappointment about crashing out in the first phase of the U17 World Cup.

"It was great to be here, but disappointing its already over. Its funny how you could have something one minute then get it taken away from you so quickly the next, it can be a cruel game sometimes.

"We had the potential and the talent to do great things but I guess it just wasn't meant to be", ended Cardozo.

### GULLY PREPARED FOR FINAL

By Markian Jaworsky

**A** cool finish by Adrian Cervinski on 20 minutes, was not enough to keep South Melbourne from victory in a friendly at Green Gully Reserve last Sunday afternoon.

South Melbourne ended up winning the match three-one in sheer National League style thanks to the efforts of Con Boutsianis.

Ian Dobson started the same XI players in this friendly as last week's starting XI against the Preston Lions. Green Gully looked very strong in the first half, and South Melbourne spent a lot of time chasing the ball.

However, on the stroke of halftime, Referee Dominic Barba ignored the offside call from the linesman and South Melbourne scored through one of their new signings.

With just 20 minutes to play, Con Boutsianis (who has finished his loan spell with Heidelberg) volleyed to put South 2-1 in front, and shortly after Paul Trimboli scored a world class goal with the outside of his boot, which curled into the top corner from outside the area. Definitely worth viewing.

All eyes will be in Victoria this week as Green Gully take on this year's surprise packets the Frankston Pines in the Victorian Premier League final.

### GLORY KICK OFF NEW SEASON

By Richard Kreider

**P**erth Glory started their defence of the National Soccer League title in earnest last weekend with first up wins in their opening friendly hitouts.

The first was a gritty 1-0 win over Malaysian side Sabah at National Stadium last Thursday and followed this up at Alfred Skeet Reserve on Saturday afternoon with a 9-0 trouncing of local third division club Armadale.

It didn't matter that Jason Petkovic, Scott Miller and Bobby Despotovski were the only players featured in the grand final starting lineup that took on Sabah, since these games are only used for coach Mich d'Avray to establish the formation and composition of his new squad, which has lost eight players and welcomed just four.

Glory's new signings, Jade

North, Wayne Shroj and Tom Pondeljak all satisfied d'Avray, while Anthony Danze, Jamie Coyne and Mark Byrnes were equally sound.

Meanwhile, Pondeljak scored his first goals on Saturday against Armadale, who despite being soundly beaten still managed to give the national league giants a solid workout.

Damian Mori began the defence of his top goalscorers title by opening the scoring after 12 minutes when he headed home a Byrnes centre. Pondeljak's first goal came after 20 minutes with a fierce

grassburner and Brad Hassell completed the first half scoring from an effortless finish.

Pondeljak converted his second just three minutes from the restart before Nick Mrdja netted a double, which were followed by goals from a Danze header and a Mori penalty before Mrdja completed his triple in the 83rd minute. Proceeds from the Armadale attendance went to Cystic Fibrosis research.

Glory take the field again today (Tuesday) in a scratch match against local State League club Floreat Athena.

- Spirit burns bright for Tobin **Page 5**
- Pines take on Gully in final **Page 8**
- QLD Lions smash Brisbane for 4 **Page 9**
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# aussiesabroad

BY DANIEL KUZIW

Tim Cahill has warned that a number of Millwall players could start looking for new clubs unless their contract situation is cleared up quickly.

The Australian international said: "There's quite a lot of lads up soon and it would help the morale of the team knowing where their future is going to be.

"It's understandable the chairman worrying about his back pocket but it's also understandable if the players start looking elsewhere.

"They're in the process of sorting it out. They need to do it quickly. After the contract situation is sorted, it will be good to see how we can do."

Meanwhile Cahill is convinced his call-up into the Australian national team will only benefit Millwall.

He insists Millwall will reap the rewards of his international future despite the possibility of losing him for some First Division matches.

He said: "If I'm being selected it's an honour for the club and my value goes up. There are a lot of pluses and minuses for Millwall because they may lose me for some games but that is part and parcel of football.

"I think they will see the pluses of it all. It's an unbelievable chance."

★ ★ ★ ★

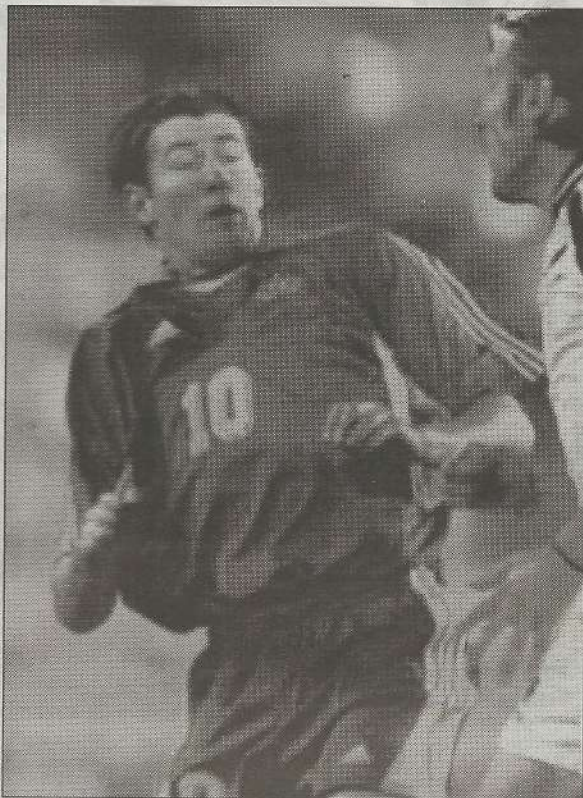
A lot of hype has been made of Brett Emerton's move to Blackburn Rovers, but sadly his Premiership debut will have to be put on hold after it was revealed late last week that a suspension sustained at Feyenoord will keep him out of the opening round.

That however has not stopped The Guardian publishing quite a lengthy article on him.

After reading the piece, AA has included the major part read and when asked why he moved to Blackburn responded in this way: "Because from the first time they approached me I've been really impressed by everything about the club," replies Emerton. "They've qualified for Europe two seasons running, playing pretty good football along the way. The facilities are great. And I liked the way the manager talked about how I fitted into his plans here."

"I've never made any secret of the fact I saw Holland as a stepping stone to playing here, and I possibly could have come sooner, but maybe it's been for the best.

"Feyenoord was valuable experience, even if I spent a lot of my time at right-back, which I didn't really enjoy that much. I much prefer right mid-



Brett Emerton: Big things are expected of him in his debut season with Blackburn Rovers.

field, or centre, and it was important to me my next manager saw me there too."

In response to his new player Emerton's manager Graeme Souness concluded the article by saying: "Brett's an ideal working right-sided midfielder who will get goals, make them and stop them at the other end. He's an athlete who's a good footballer.

★ ★ ★ ★

Former Perth Glory defender Jamie Harnwell has made his English league debut by coming off the bench 58 minutes into Leyton Orient's loss to Doncaster Rovers on



Jamie Harnwell: Delighted about his debut with Leyton Orient.



from Perth in Western Australia which was a long trek, and I was pleased I did enough to justify a month's deal, now I want to do enough to justify longer than that."

★ ★ ★ ★

Officials at Reading are hoping that Australia's international against Jamaica on September 7 will be the first of many "home" internationals for the Aussies at the Madejski Stadium.

"We are looking forward to this game being a big success. We know Australia are looking for a venue in Europe to play games as many of their players are European based," said



Tim Cahill: Has urged his club Millwall to resolve his contract situation quickly.

Perth Glory [but] I needed a new challenge and I've always had a burning desire to play in the English league. I came over

Reading chief executive Nigel Howe.

"We believe we have the set-up to make Madejski Stadium the first choice home for the Socceroos in Europe."

★ ★ ★ ★

Sasho Petrovski is expecting to play from the start this week after impressing for Viborg against Herfølge BK.

The Australia international came on at half-time with his team 2-0 down, had a hand in strike-partner Soren Frederiksen pulling one goal back before unluckily hitting the bar with a close-range header.

"Yeah, I'm still thinking about that," Petrovski told trib- alfootball.com last night.

"I know the Viborg fans are disappointed with the results in the last couple of weeks, but I think we're a better team this season.

"The spirit and morale is better and I reckon that will keep us in good shape."

Petrovski added, "I feel good, better than I have for over a year, I'm itching to get amongst the goals this season."

## Parramatta Eagles



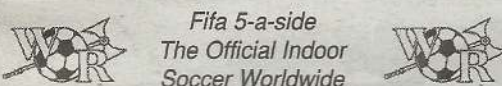
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- ❖ Sunday 31st August commencing @ 9am
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# CARLE AIMS FOR OLYMPICS SQUAD

By Mark Stavroulakis

**K**nown as being one of Australia's most exciting young talents ever to leave our shores for overseas, gun midfielder Nick Carle hopes that his return to the National League will boost his chances of making the Australian Olympics squad for Athens 2004.

The lucky National League side that has attained the services of the youth international has been the Marconi Stallions under new coach Jean Paul De Marigny.

"It's been a rough few years for me since my move to France. Now that I'm back home, I'm hoping that I can have a good year at Marconi, play as much games as possible, improve my fitness and hopefully achieve my dream of playing in the Olympic Games next year in Athens".

French First Division club Troyes realised the potential Carle had a year and a half ago and signed the star from the Olympic Sharks on a four-and-a-half year deal. It all started well for the former Patrician Brothers student however injury and a new coach literally put an end to his tenure at the French side.

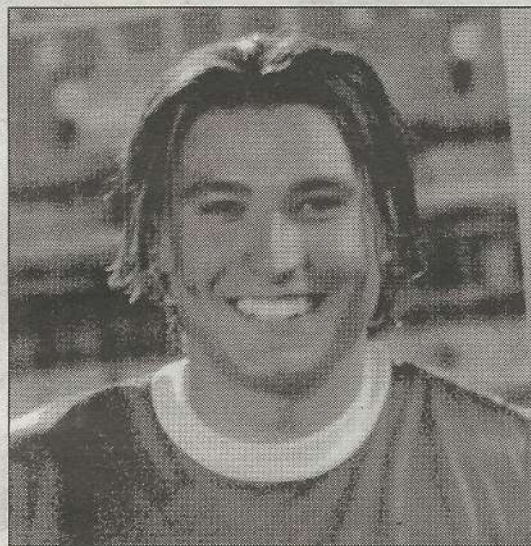
"I can honestly say that the first six months of my career at Troyes was unreal. I was playing regularly and I was enjoying my football especially in front of a great crowd. The atmosphere overseas is so much different to here, it was fantastic.

After my six-months at the club, I got a knock on my knee, which pretty much sidelined me for a while. During my time out, the coach that brought me to the club was replaced, thus prompting the new manager in bringing in some new players.

"I did not fair in his plans and realistically couldn't see myself playing at the club. Troyes at the time were also battling relegation and at the end of the year were dumped to the second division. I knew a move was needed and even though I had a few years left on my contract, first team football was a must for me".

Moving abroad for any youngster is always one of the toughest decisions to do.

Carle gave a good insight on what good and bad aspects



Nick Carle can't wait for the new year with the Marconi Stallions.

he experienced whilst his time in France.

"The things I noticed while I was there was the lifestyle and language was completely different to what I was used to. That and also needing to prove myself to a new coach and country that didn't know me. Not playing towards the end of my time there also put me back as well.

When your not playing, especially under atrocious conditions like the European winter, it's the worst feeling in the world. I know however that if you are a regular, depression is the last thing on your mind - the European league is where you really want to be, that is if you're a first team regular. I was glad that I had help from my fiancée and Aussie boys Mile Sterjovski and Brett Emerton helping me out during my time in France. I kept in regular contact with guys but they made it feel like I was at home".

Contemplating his options, Carle sought in coming back to Australia to resurrect his career rather than pursuing a move to another European club.

"My heart was set in coming back to Australia and playing in the National League. It would have been quite hard to establish trials with European clubs as I was carrying an ankle injury that sidelined me for three months".

National League sides flocked to the announcement that the 22-year-old was arriving back to familiar waters.

The Brisbane Strikers, Parramatta Power, Wollongong Wolves and

Marconi all contacted Carle in hoping to sign the star.

"I spoke firstly to Nick Theodorakopoulos about signing with the Power for the new-year however it was around the time I was deciding whether to stay at Troyes. By the time I made up my mind, the Power signed up a whole squad. I did speak to the Strikers and the Wolves-but felt that Marconi was the way to go. I spoke to JP and being his first year at coaching a National League squad, I knew he was keen and enthusiastic about getting top results. The squad looks very good as well, many good names have made their returns to the club which should spark up good vibes with both the club and players. It also worked out well with the fact that Marconi is situated closer to home".

People queried whether his former club Sydney Olympic were interested, the answer was that Nick was, however Coach Peter Papanikitas failed to reply to his phone calls.

"I called 'Paps' three times but failed to get a phone call back from him. I was quite disappointed as I did the right thing by the club in ringing them up. Obviously they did not require my services but the least they could have done was to call me back, that's just common courtesy. I'm not upset with the club, but one thing for sure I'll never sign for a side that is coached by Peter Papanikitas".

The new season is now ahead of the hopeful Olympics star and goals plus showcasing his wonderful skill are the main components in bringing back Carle's enthusiasm for soccer.

Marconi are tipped to have a big year under new coach JP with the help of his new players and of course Nick Carle, anything is possible.

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# MOORE OUT OF ROO SQUAD

**S**OCCEEROO boss Frank Farina suffered a blow with the news that Rangers central defender Craig Moore is out of Today's friendly international with the Republic of Ireland at Lansdowne Road, Dublin.

Moore injured a hamstring in Rangers' European Champions League qualifying round first-leg draw with FC Copenhagen at Ibrox on Wednesday.

His club already rate him a doubtful starter for Wednesday week's second leg in Copenhagen.

Known as being one of the inspirations behind the Socceroo squad, his fighting ability and determination will be sorely missed.

It is expected that fellow team-mate Kevin Muscat will replace Moore in defence.



Craig Moore will miss Tuesday's clash with the Irish due to an injury sustained in last week's Champions League qualifying round match.

## Oceania Futsal Qualifying Tournament

**T**he Oceania Football Confederation has confirmed the match schedule, venue and dates for the 2003 OFC World Futsal Qualifying Tournament which will be held in Australia.

The 2003 OFC World Futsal Qualifying Tournament will be held from 20-25 October 2003 at the Australian Institute of Sport arena in Canberra. After the unavailability of the original venue in Sydney, the OFC approved the tournament moving to Australia's capital.

Hosts Australia will compete with Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu for the sole qualifying berth, representing the OFC at the FIFA Futsal World Championship 2004 in Chinese Taipei.

The 2003 OFC World Futsal Qualifying Tournament will be held in a double round robin format on a league system over six match days. Under this format, each team will play the other teams twice. The winner will be determined by the team which leads the points tally ladder at the end of the tournament. The match schedule has been enclosed below.

The previous OFC Futsal Qualifying

Tournament was held in 1999 in Port Vila, Vanuatu with Australia coming out victors on that occasion.

2003 OFC World Futsal Qualifying

Tournament: Match Schedule

**Oct 20 Monday**

6pm Fiji vs Vanuatu

8pm Australia vs New Zealand

**Oct 21 Tuesday**

6pm Vanuatu vs Australia

8pm New Zealand vs Fiji

**Oct 22 Wednesday**

6pm Fiji vs Australia

8pm Vanuatu vs New Zealand

**Oct 23 Thursday**

6pm Vanuatu vs Fiji

8pm New Zealand vs Australia

**Oct 24 Friday**

6pm Fiji vs New Zealand

8pm Australia vs Vanuatu

**Oct 25 Saturday**

6pm New Zealand vs Vanuatu

8pm Australia vs Fiji

\* All times are local in Canberra

## No deal for 'Pana' At South

**S**outh Melbourne has decided against offering midfielder Steve Panopoulos a contract for the new season.

Panopoulos is trialling with Brazilian giants Fluminense after coming out of contract.

"He has chosen to make himself invisible," South president Peter Mitrakas told the *Herald-Sun*.

"We're going into a new era at the club. There's been massive changes and everyone who has wanted a contract has turned up and fought for it. (Coach) Stuart Munro is getting 100 calls a week from players wanting to trial.

The squad has already

done pre-season and played four or five games and anyone who didn't participate in that won't be offered a contract."



South Melbourne has been Panopoulos' life after initially starting off as a ball-boy then making the grade at South playing 10 solid seasons which in turn came up to around 230 National League matches.

The deal is though, if the Brazilian club decided signing the former South star, then he will leave on an automatic free transfer under the Bosman ruling.

Meanwhile, another blow to the club has been the news that the side could lose most of the Patrick Kisnorbo transfer to Scottish Premier League side Hearts.

South President Peter Mitrakas stated that the club would be lucky to receive A\$100,000 for the Socceroo.

"FIFA put a new compensation system in place as of last October and we're trying to work through the maze to establish an amount for a claim", Mitrakas stated to the *Herald Sun*.

# Heading ball 'not dangerous'

**H**EADING a soccer ball is unlikely to cause brain injury but head-to-head clashes might, according to an editorial in the *British Medical Journal*.

The five-year controversy dates back to 1998, when former Glasgow Celtic player Billy McPhail lost a legal battle to claim benefits for dementia he said was caused by heading heavy, old-style leather footballs.

But in November 2002, a British coroner ruled that former England international forward, Jeff Astle, had suffered neurological damage as a result of the repeated heading of balls during his career. He died in January that year aged only 59.

The concerns have fuelled calls, especially in the United States, for soccer players to wear protective headgear.

In its editorial, the *British Medical Journal* says most concussive injuries in football derive from head-to-head rather than ball-to-ball contact.

"Heading a soccer ball results in head accelerations of less than 10 G whereas the minimum values for the development of sport-related concussion are 50-60 G," it says. G-force is a measurement of fast acceleration or deceleration.

"In contrast, head-to-head contact can generate enough of the forces required to cause brain injury as in any conventional head injury."

The dilemma, says the editorial, lies in finding the right headgear.

Soft helmets will not provide enough protection, whereas hard helmets could in themselves inflict injury on other players.

The editorial is written by Paul McGrory, a specialist in sports medicine at Melbourne University's Brain Research Institute in Australia. It is published in next Saturday's issue of the *BMJ*.



Heading a soccer ball is unlikely to cause brain damage according to scientists!

## OLYMPIC IN SEARCH OF A FAN CLUB NAME

National League side Sydney Olympic have been hunting endlessly to find out a suitable name for its fan club for the coming National League season.



Having one of the most parochial supporters in Australia, the Olympic army have drawn up a blue-print as to what names they'd like to be called:

- Blue Zoo
- Blue Wave
- Blue Zone
- Blue Passion
- Olympic Passion

## Farina: Viduka & Okon should leave Leeds

**N**ational coach Frank Farina put the heat on Paul Okon and Mark Viduka as the Socceroos secured a game against Jamaica to follow up today's Dublin clash against the Republic of Ireland.

Farina, who welcomed the announcement of the September 7 friendly against Jamaica at the ground of English first division club Reading, said he hoped both Okon and Viduka left Leeds United.

Okon is the Socceroos captain but is not certain to be in the starting line-up for Wednesday morning's match against Ireland after being unable to play a full game in Leeds' reserve side this week.

Farina is closely monitoring the fallout between Viduka and Leeds manager Peter Reid which has seen the Socceroos striker play little of the pre-season.

On Okon, Farina said: "While any player wears the (captain's) armband, he will come under more scrutiny than any other player. That's the reality and that's what I said to Paul Okon when I spoke to him.

"It happened in the past with Paul Wade and Alex Tobin and Paul realises that. It's obvious Peter Reid is not a fan of Paul Okon, and he's got to move if he wants to prolong his career either at club or international level.

But it's not so easy to move. Things are very tight financially in Europe and most clubs have settled, with their squads well and truly into their pre-season."

Farina said Viduka was less of a concern because he had been part of Leeds' pre-season, but he was well aware the striker had become unhappy at Leeds.

"Obviously Leeds want to keep him, but if Mark's not happy, it'll be difficult for the club to hang on to him," Farina said. "I've always been of the opinion that if a player's not happy, you've got to let him go."

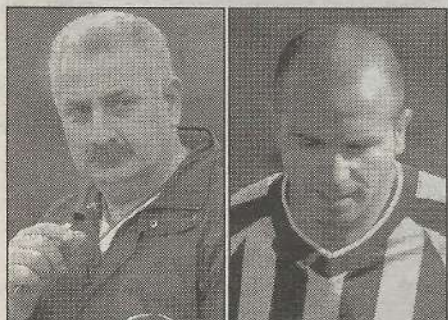
Farina said he would monitor the Socceroo players' performances at club level this weekend before deciding on his starting 11 against Ireland.

"Ireland is going to be very tough. They have less superstars than England, but they play better as a team," Farina said.

The confirmation of a second international just three weeks later gives Farina an opportunity to work on cohesion and lay the foundations of his strongest team for next year's World Cup qualifiers.

The game against Jamaica will be the first international between the two countries, but the main significance is securing Reading's Majeski Stadium, a step towards establishing a London base for the Socceroos.

# Sydney Olympic back on track



**Sydney Olympic coach Peter Papanikitas is hoping for a big season with his new side.**

**Jimmy Nikas: One of Olympic's new recruits.**

**\*By Peter Damalas**

Despite undergoing major changes in the off season, the players and coaching staff at Sydney Olympic are approaching the new campaign with a determination to prove any doubters wrong.

The 2-0 grand final loss to Perth Glory signalled the end of the line for the Olympic Sharks outfit, and all but three of the senior squad signed with rival NSL clubs or travelled overseas in a four week period.

However, a steady recruitment campaign initiated by the new leadership team at Olympic has brought some optimism to supporters amid the doom and gloom of the club's major upheaval.

New coach Peter Papanikitas said that the squad are "slowly getting there."

"Although we don't have the luxury of having a really good squad, we have players that want to play for the guernsey" he said.

Papanikitas has been busy trying to finalise the set up in the senior squad, and bring the fitness level up to the standards set by rival NSL clubs. The pre-season begins in earnest on Sunday, as Olympic clash with Sydney United in a trial fixture.

"We still haven't finalised the team. The areas of concern are in midfield, where we are looking for a defensive midfielder and a right wing back".

"At the moment we are behind the eight ball. There are players from the state league and we don't really know how fit these guys are. In three or four weeks we will get a better idea" he said.

Papanikitas is likely to settle on a 3-5-2 formation for the new season, with an impressive backline that includes Clint Bolton in goals, and defenders Scott Baillie, George Souris and Paul Kohler.

Young Newcastle United player Joseph Schirripa is also rumoured to be joining the fold at Olympic to provide the depth in defence.

The goalscoring responsibility will rest heavily on new signing from Parramatta Power, Pablo Cardozo. The thirty year old returns to his former club as one of the most experienced players, and supporters will be hoping his goals provide the foundation for a useful 2003-2004 campaign.

Another new signing, Jim Nikas, believes the club may push for a top six finish.

"I think we will do alright" he said. "The most difficult part will be blending together as a team. There are a lot of new guys and we started training later than the others. But we have been doing pretty intense work out there and the guys have been pushing themselves."

With approximately two months remaining before the season begins, Olympic players have been concentrating on running for endurance and fitness, while arranging matches between themselves on the weekends.

And after transferring from Blacktown in the state league, Nikas has had an opportunity to work with his new teammates.

"Ability wise we have a pretty good squad, and many other sides are in a similar boat to us" he said.

Despite currently being injured, Nikas will be fighting for a spot on the left flank, possibly at wing back, or as a creative midfielder.

"I am happy to stay at Olympic, they have always been a great club" he said.

# TOBIN MAINTAINS THAT COMPETITIVE EDGE

**By Peter Damalas**

One of the constant symbols of the National Soccer League is the sight of Alex Tobin marshalling the centre of the defence.

The former Adelaide City and Parramatta Power player has made a career out of stopping the most dangerous frontmen in Australian soccer. Despite having scaled the heights of the domestic game, the former Socceroo captain retains the passion he had for the game when he made his debut in 1984.

After signing on with Northern Spirit, Tobin will

continue to be a role model for the younger players in the squad.

The players at North Sydney are currently in the

"This is a hard time of the year, with the physical ground work and running.

This is the second year we have had such a structured

opposition last season, and there was certainly no grumblings from the boys. It has been quite enjoyable", he said.

last season's effort. "No one in the club felt that radical change was required."

Confidence in the playing roster is certainly at a high, with Tobin and Scotsmen Ian Ferguson and Stewart Petrie mixing well with the group of players that made NSL debuts last season.

With more than five hundred appearances under his belt and three championships to his name, many have argued that Tobin has achieved more than enough in the game.

However, the 37 year old defender has the ambition to go further still.

Supporters of the Spirit can be confident that Alex Tobin will do his utmost to ensure the club maintain its position near the top of the NSL tree.

*"It was fantastic to finish off the way we did last season, but we don't want to make a habit out of making slow starts. We are aiming for a fair amount of points in the first half of the season"*

**- Alex Tobin.**

midst of a gruelling off season training program organised by the New South Wales Institute of Sport.

and scientific programme. While it did raise a number of eyebrows, we managed to finish games on top of the

Tobin maintains that the benefits of the rigorous training patterns were evident in the last campaign, where the team came from wooden spoon favouritism to a finish in the top six.

He also stated that coach Lawrie McKinna will be working on beginning the season in the right frame.

"The squad are a few months ahead of the general fitness levels. We had a shorter off season and some players went overseas for trials so they have retained a degree of base fitness" he said.

"It was fantastic to finish off the way we did last season, but we don't want to make a habit out of making slow starts. We are aiming for a fair amount of points in the first half of the season".

Northern Spirit have adapted a steady approach in preparation for 2003-2004, with one major recruit in midfielder Wayne O'Sullivan.

Tobin stated that club officials were very pleased with



**Alex Tobin is ready for another big season with the Northern Spirit.**

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## COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

**2003 USA Tour for Under 19 Girls -  
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COLLEGE CONNECTIONS has organised a tour to USA departing on 19th November 2003 for girls born after 1st August 1984 with a major component being participation in the **San Diego Surf Cup**, rated within the top two tournaments in the USA.

Prior to competing in **San Diego**, the squad will first arrive in San Francisco for lead up matches and tour activities before travelling to Los Angeles for additional matches and attractions, with the final destination of San Diego for play between 28th - 30th November 2003.

For many players this could be the chance of a life time to experience Womens Soccer at a premier youth international level in arguably the World's leading country for Womens Soccer.

There are limited vacancies available, with current confirmed squad members comprising players from the NSW Womens Super League. Suitably talented players who are interested in further details should contact **COLLEGE CONNECTIONS on 9618 2299.**

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# FARINA CONFIDENT AUSSIE FANS WILL COME TO SEE ROOS

**Q**antas Socceroos coach Frank Farina is optimistic that Australia's game against Jamaica will see a good turn out of Australian fans to Madejski Stadium in Reading.

Farina was speaking from Finland via a media hook up after Soccer Australia confirmed earlier today that the two countries have reached agreement to play the game

in Reading on Sunday September 7.

"Hopefully yes", was Farina's response as to whether he expected a large turnout of Australian fans to the match. "Obviously there is a large contingent of Aussies over in London, as there are Jamaican's.

"So hopefully we'll get a reasonable crowd and get some Aussies down there to cheer us on.

"We certainly had large numbers for the game against England at West Ham, so there is no reason why they shouldn't be turning up for this one as well."

The match is a further endorsement of the move towards a designated international programme that Farina would like to see in place in the lead up to the 2006 World Cup qualifiers in two years time.

"I'm very happy," said Farina.

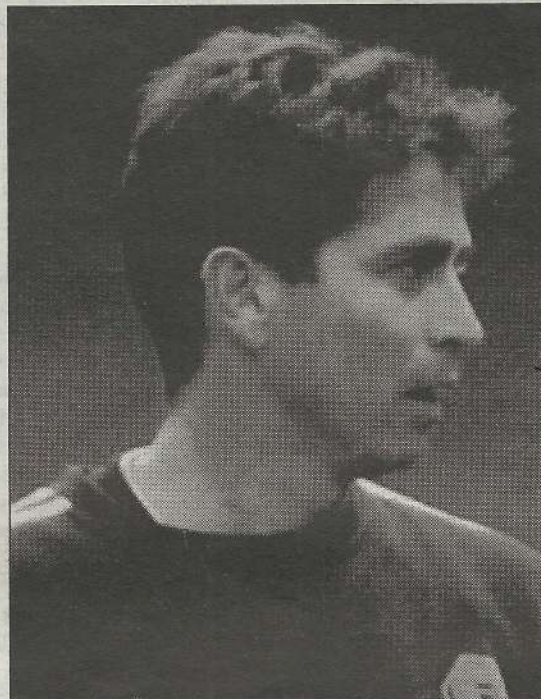
"In the past we've had a number of games that have been on the table or possibilities and finally seeing those come to fruition now is very positive.

"I think it is good for the Qantas Socceroos and good for people back home to see the team in action on a more regular basis."

Farina admitted though his knowledge of the Jamaican team was limited, when asked about what he knew about them.

"If I said I knew a lot, I would be lying, but I do remember them from the 98' World Cup although that squad would have changed since then.

"I have no doubts they are a very handy side, and I will chase some things up in the lead up to it (the game)."



Socceroo coach Frank Farina hopes that Aussie's will come to support the side against the Irish.

Farina indicated he would most likely stick with the same squad that is playing the Republic of Ireland next Tuesday night, although he wouldn't rule out several new players coming in.

"We'll see how the Irish game goes. There is a chance we may try and bring a few new players in, obviously depending on their form and how players go in the Irish game. But to have them (the games) so close together can be sometimes an advantage for game cohesion.

Farina also dismissed the notion that some players would make themselves unavailable.

"I am sure we will (get everyone there)," Farina said emphatically.

"It's been played near London, it's in the FIFA dates, so I don't see any issues there".

## Socceroo Emerton kicks off in style



Brett Emerton notched up his first Premiership goal for Blackburn Rovers last week in his side's five-one drubbing of the Wolverhampton Wanderers.

**A**THREE-year wait paid off for Socceroo midfielder Brett Emerton and Blackburn manager Graeme Souness when the Australian midfielder scored a goal in a man-of-the-match performance in his English Premiership debut last weekend.

Emerton scored the third of Blackburn's goals as the Rovers hammered the newly-promoted Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 at Ewood Park.

The former Feyenoord player was a late addition to Souness's starting side after the Dutch Football Association revoked a ban from last season with less than 24 hours before the season kicked off.

Souness signed Emerton in the off-season after monitoring him since a Socceroos' friendly against Scotland in October 2000.

"Brett is a top player and we are very fortunate to have him," Souness said.

"I stayed in touch with his agent after seeing Brett play for Australia against Scotland and I am delighted he decided to join us. If he can keep up that level of performance I will be quite happy.

"When you get to my age, the memory starts to slip, but it's as good a debut as I can remember."

Emerton had a couple of early chances, breaking away in the second minute to deliver a cross which was scrambled away, with his next attempt stinging the hands of goalkeeper Matt Murray.

But a corner in the 17th minute allowed him to deliver the ball to former Rangers star Lorenzo Amoruso, who powered home a header.

David Thompson added a second 12 minutes later and Emerton scored the third with a spectacular strike in the 52nd minute, unleashing an unstoppable shot into the corner.

## Island nations to take over Oceania

**R**elations within the troubled Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) have worsened, with New Zealand and Australia being told they will be blocked from holding the organisation's top job even if they "kneel down and beg for it".

In a letter circulated to Oceania's 11 member nations and selected media, Vanuatu Football Federation president Johnny Tinsley Lulu said the island nations planned to use their superior voting strength to overthrow current president, Australian Basil Scarsella.

"If Australia and New Zealand want to take the helm, they have to kneel down and beg for it," Lulu said.

"But it would be a shameful way to beg for power because the island nations have made up their mind to take over."

Lulu, a high chief in Vanuatu, has led a motion for a vote of no confidence in Scarsella after soccer's world governing body FIFA recently backtracked on a promise of direct World Cup entry for Oceania.

Samoa's Tautulu Roebek, the current OFC vice president, would replace Scarsella until next May's presidential elections if the island nations overthrew the Australian at a extraordinary congress scheduled for September 6.

Lulu's comments drew an angry response from New Zealand Soccer (NZS) chief executive Bill MacGowan.

"To say what he's said publicly is a disgrace," MacGowan said.

"If that is (the island nations) mindset, then we're in for a long, hard negotiation with them."

MacGowan also laughed off Lulu's claim that New Zealand and Australia had approached FIFA to form a breakaway confederation.



New Zealand Soccer Chief Bill MacGowan

"We can't do that. FIFA's already said that and Asia's not interested so there's no break-away opportunity.

"Clearly New Zealand and Australia can't break away

into a confederation by themselves."

MacGowan has reiterated NZS' stance that ousting Scarsella before May's elections would leave Oceania "going through the whole kerfuffle again in another 12 months".

"I don't believe Basil Scarsella had a hope in hell of stopping that vote (which resulted in FIFA's World Cup reversal). When UEFA and South America get together they win every vote."

MacGowan said Oceania should concentrate on pressing issues like coaching rather than "spending 90 per cent of its time on political in-fighting".

Oceania is the only one of FIFA's seven confederations without a technical director in charge of coach and player development.

## Everton pursuing link with Samoa

**E**NGLAND'S Everton Football Club are negotiating with Samoa over forging a partnership to develop the game in the tiny Pacific nation, the Samoa Football Federation said last week.

Samoa's English-born coach David Brand and head of SFF delegation Laauli Laupepa spoke with Everton officials during the national under-15 team's tour of England last month.

Brand said Everton officials spoke of their interest in developing a partnership with Samoa, helping the development of the game, coaching in villages and schools and developing community

football schemes.

A further meeting took place after the under 15s played in Northern Ireland and Brand met Ted Sutton, head of the



club's football in the community scheme and marketing consultant Frank McKenna.

"The potential for this partnership is endless and whilst discussions are a long way from completion and action I am pleased with the outcome so far," Brand said in a statement.

"I do look forward to a positive decision and working with the staff at Everton in the future. Their expertise will be invaluable in promoting the game in Samoa."

Samoa is in the Oceania Confederation, dominated by regional powers Australia and New Zealand.

Everton, under manager David Moyes, finished seventh in last season's English Premier League.

## BIRTHDAY BOY

**Jozo Antolovic**  
Born 20 August 1958

**NSL CAREER**  
Melbourne Knights [1984-1988] 48 games (6 goals)

Tall sweeper who became more of a midfielder after moving from Osijek in the old Yugoslav first division to the Melbourne Knights in March 1982.

He was a regular for the Knights in the years leading up to the club's entry to the NSL, and played major roles in the Knights' Victorian state league cup and Dockerty Cup final victories in 1983.

After being out injured at the start of the 1984 - the Knights' first season in the NSL - he regained his starting spot by round seven and was a virtual ever-present throughout the remainder of the 1984 season and throughout 1985.

He moved back to his native Croatia at the end of 1985 and rejoined Osijek, the team from his town of birth.

He was initially expected to return to the Knights in 1986, but ended up staying in Croatia after the birth of his child.

In 1988 he briefly returned to the Knights, making a one-off guest appearance against the club's arch-rivals Footscray.

Andrew Howe

## NIGERIAN ACE SIGNS WITH WOLVES

Nigerian striker Chimaobi Nwaogazi has finally achieved his goal and will play in this season's National Soccer League after signing last week with two-time champions Wollongong Wolves.

The former Pepsi Golden Boot runner-up and member of the Nigerian B squad, has been marooned in Australia since he was imported here by Sydney Olympic in the latter half of 2000.

Since that time he has been pursued by other NSL clubs and Asian clubs, but ridiculous demands from his former club in Nigeria, poor administration and policy from NSL clubs, and immigration headaches, have kept him off the soccer fields of Australia.

"He turned 23 last November which made him a free agent under FIFA regulations and his world turned around from there," said Ivan Pavela of Zenith Football Management. "Fawcner Blues in Melbourne snapped him up and his goalscoring habits quickly returned in the Victorian Premier League."

Wollongong Wolves' new coach John Turner, on the lookout for a strong athletic striker, offered "Chima" a trial, and Chima impressed from day one.

Considering the striker is rebuilding his career after two years in the wilderness



Keep a close look out on Nigerian ace Chimaobi Nwaogazi for the Wollongong Wolves this season.

Turner said "He can only get better from here and he will do well for us."

Nwaogazi said "I am happy to finally get my chance in the Australian league, and I am looking forward to repaying all the friends I have made here with lots of goals. Wollongong is a beautiful place and I can't wait to move here."

Known for his ability to hold the ball well, the big striker will be certainly one to look out for in this year's National League competition.

Nwaogazi was handed trials with Sydney Olympic this season but opted to join Turner and company at the South Coast.

Nwaogazi will partner experienced National League campaigner and skipper Stuart Young up front.

## Glory takes NSL action to the suburbs

Perth Glory will open its defence of the National Soccer League Championship at Arena Joondalup on Sunday, September 28 against old rivals Melbourne Knights in one of two games to be played in the northern suburb while the new multi-purpose stadium is being built.

There will be a special family atmosphere at the games and coach Mich d'Avray has urged fans to make sure Perth Glory's fantastic home support plays a vital role in the club's title defence.

South Melbourne will be the second opponent to confront Glory at Arena Joondalup, when they visit Perth for a round eight clash on Sunday, November 9.

Perth Glory Chief Executive

Officer Jeff Dennis said the two Sunday afternoon games, both with 3pm kick-offs, had been planned with families in mind.

"Arena Joondalup is a great venue for families to come to, bring a picnic and rug and have a great day out. Perth Glory will be offering an action-packed day, with a wide range of entertainment for families from noon. All tickets will be at general admission prices, with concession and child tickets available.

"We are delighted that the City of Joondalup has come on board as Match Day Sponsor for both games. Perth Glory will be involving the

local community as much as possible in the build-up to the games through events such as school visits and shopping centre appearances. Perth Glory will be heavily involved in promoting the game in the city and we are confident fans will make the trip."



The National Soccer League Championship Trophy will be on display at the game and d'Avray said fans had a huge part to play in helping Perth Glory defend the title.

"There is absolutely no doubt that playing at Perth Oval has been worth a goal start to us in most games," the coach said.

"Home is where the heart is and

these two games are vital -- we will need a really noisy crowd at Arena Joondalup. Melbourne Knights are a strong, tough side to beat and South Melbourne have recruited very well in the off-season. These are going to be two huge games and want the fans right behind us."

Mr Dennis said Perth Glory is in discussions with Transperth to secure extra public transport services for the two games and expects a big crowd.

"This will be the first chance for supporters to salute the Championship winning side since that great day at Subiaco," he said.

The Glory will unveil new players Wayne Shroji, Jade North, Shaun Murphy and a couple of other new stars at their forthcoming friendly hit-outs.

## ROOS TO FACE REGGAE BOYZ IN READING

Reading Football Club's Madejski Stadium (Reading, England) will be the venue for the first ever meeting between Australia and Jamaica in a friendly international on Sunday 7th September, kick off 2pm (London time).

Acting Chief Executive of Soccer Australia, Richard Johnson said, "Soccer Australia is pleased that we have been able to secure an historic international friendly against Jamaica in Reading - in front of what we expect will be a large number of Australian fans following the fantastic support we received against England in February."

"Jamaica will prove to be an opponent that provides the Qantas Socceroos with a different football style to their recent European experience, and with many of their foot-

ballers gaining experience in the English leagues and the vocal support the Reggae Boyz will receive from the London Jamaican community, Frank Farina's team will have to work very hard to win the first ever international match between the two countries."

"As this is the Qantas Socceroos first match on 'neutral territory', we urge all the Australian fans living in the United Kingdom and continental Europe to support the Green and Gold in Reading as we continue to prepare the team on our ultimate goal - qualification for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany."

"Soccer Australia would also like to extend our appreciation and thanks to our friends at The Football Association (England) for their offi-

cial sanctioning of the match, in addition to their continued understanding of the logistical challenges we face as a footballing nation when planning international matches of significance."



Captain Horace Burrell, President of Jamaica Football Federation, added, "Jamaica emerged as a contending force in world football by no accident. Since 1994, a carefully thought out and executed plan has seen Jamaica qualifying for no less than three of The FIFA World Tournaments including the 1998 World Cup in France."

"The 'Reggae Boyz' have played some of the world's football giants over the years and look forward to this game against Oceania powerhouse Australia with great enthusiasm."

The fact that the game will be played in England in front of screaming Jamaican and Australian fans will create further interest.

"This is an historic moment for our football and we look forward to the excitement and tremendous atmosphere that will grace Madejski Stadium and indeed the Jamaican community in the UK. We expect to see the green, black and gold colours in abundance as we have become accustomed."

Reading Football Club Chairman, John Madejski said, "We will be delighted to welcome Australia and Jamaica to the stadium for this exciting fixture."

We are an ideal venue as we are easy to get to for all travelling supporters whether by train or car or coach. It will be an honour to host two high-class international teams."

## END-OF-SEASON HIGH-JINKS



By Daniela Raco

What did our NSL stars do over the holidays? I asked the Who's Who of Australian soccer.

With team budgets down, end of season trips became almost a dirty word.

With most clubs struggling to meet player payments and the like, there was no money left in the kitty to go anywhere.

Most players, funnily enough, spent their time attending to daily household chores, gardening, fencing, etc.

Well....someone has to do it!



Shane Web - Went fishing with my Brother and mates. My girlfriend and mates have seen a lot more of me on the weekends. Just hanging out, going to the movies and football - Go the Dragons!



Lou Acevski - Relaxing and enjoying time back home in Melbourne with family. Keeping fit and playing park soccer.



Julian Watts - Went to England and trained. Relaxed and spent time with family.



Goran Lozanovski - Spent time with family and work around the house.



Pablo Cardozo - Went to the Great Keppel Contiki Resort - was unreal.



Vuko Tomasevic - I had a broken foot, so I did absolutely nothing. Spent five weeks overseas in Europe, which was great.

Angelo Costanzo - I had a knee operation. Went to Adelaide to visit family. Went to Griffith to visit friends, and Melbourne for the weekend.



Brendan Renaud (Below) - House duties, more shelving in the shed, gardening, lawns, edges. I drove to Byron Bay to see family. Went to Brisbane, and also the Hunter Valley for a weekend. Purchased red wine. Made the move across to Marconi. I've also been coaching local clubs, and I'm in the early stages of starting a new company.



Christian Care - I got a nail and grabbed a hammer, nailed the nail into the garage wall, tied my boots together, and hung them up.

Vinko Buljubasic - I've been coaching Melbourne Knights Under 18's (new career move...watch out NSL!), and playing with my baby boy Tomislav.



Alex Brosque (Above) - Went for a holiday to Queensland with mates. Played golf. I've been catching up with people I haven't seen for a while.

# WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

## Wolves Squad takes shape

In a recent trial against fellow National League side Sydney United (1:1) at Crehan Park, Cringila, coach John Turner used 18 players rotating in three 30 minutes sections. Only tall defender Bobby Dragas was out injured while following aspirants showed plenty of skills and efforts to impress: Andrew Crews (in goal), Mirko Jurilj, Adam Hughes, Shane Lyons, Dustin Wells, Michael Hawrysiuk, Chimaobi Nwaogazi, Stuart Young, John Majurovski, Stuart van Bentum, Ben Blake, Daniel Cummins, Nahuel Arrarte, Daniel Aliaga, Steve Degaovanend, Shaun Widera, Nathan Abel, Vlado Zoric.



**John Majurovski: Dual National Youth League player of the year has signed a first grade contract with the Wolves.**

Team Manager Bob Stallard was kept busy to call up constant substitutions for the coaching staff to evaluate individual players. It was not ideal to find a settled cohesion but essential for John

Turner to view all available players. The overall impression was rather positive as plenty of onlookers would confirm.

Additional signings of players are negotiated within the next two weeks with some unfortunately missing out. Youngster John Majurovski (21) - dual national league youth player of the year - survived the hectic training schedule and was rewarded with a contract. He joined the club halfway through last season from Newcastle, playing in the Wolves Youth team and now is determined to become a regular first grader. Nigerian striker Chima (called so by his team mates) Nwaogazi won a contract and will partner veteran striker Stuart Young up front. Just turning 23 he has now the opportunity to develop in a potential 'winner'.

Another player signed is Daniel Cummins (24) a Tamworth boy with Parramatta Eagles before and playing in the Maltese first division. A late call-up went to Ivan Karlovic (21) from Adelaide City who also trialed with the Melbourne Knights and now joined the "Possibles" at the Wolves. Also signed is youngster Nahuel Arrarte bringing the Wolves squad close to full complement. Arrarte has starred for Sydney United in previous seasons and was part of the NSWIS set-up. Nahuel has been busy playing in this years Winter Super League for club Hadjuk Wanderers.

A decision to offer a contract to several more will be made shortly.

On Sunday 24th August the Wolves match up with preseason favourites Parramatta Power, 3PM at Lysht, 1PM Youth fixture. This will be a real test for coach John Turner's team and an indication of the side's quality and progress achieved so far and what to expect in the new season 2003/2004.

Curious onlookers will be on hand no doubt to judge the Wolves prospects to compete successfully in the new season.



**Ivan Karlovic could be a surprise signing for Wollongong.**

## Illawarra 2004 Competitions

The competition format for the season 2004 based on 28 member clubs applying for Premier and Conference League will be 14 teams in each competition. Should less clubs enter the format will be 14 teams in Premier League and 13 in the lower league. Should 26 clubs nominate there will be a 12 team and 14 team competition.

Both competitions are arranged for a two rounds home and away schedule. In relation to promotion/relegation for 2003 only, the two clubs first and second in Conference league will be automatically promoted and if necessary the last placed team in Premier League will play an elimination game (one only) against the third placed team in Conference league for the right to play in the top competition. Scheduled ground for 12th versus 3rd of Conference league is Butler Memorial Park.

## Kick-off Times Cup Games

The Bert Bampton and Youth Cup finals at Wetherall Park, Primbee on Sunday 24th August will be at 12.30PM Youth Grade West v Bulli

and 3PM Kemblawarra v Coniston Lions. These two annual cup events are now running over 30 years, eagerly contested for trophy and prize money.

## Balgownie Rangers 120 Years Anniversary

Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club, situated at Judy Masters Oval in Balgownie is currently the oldest registered soccer club in Australia. The club was established in 1883 and still running strong, boasting a strong junior base that continues to grow every year.



Members are invited to purchase 120 Year Anniversary memorabilia like 120 year anniversary red wine Shiraz Cabernet \$12 or white Chardonnay or anniversary Port. During the anniversary ball a \$5 bottle of 1983 was auctioned off for \$500.

At present Balgownie Rangers in conjunction with Southern Classic Cars are holding a raffle to 'win a brand new Volkswagen Beetle, tickets are \$50 each and there are only 1000 of them, so get in quick. The Raffle will be drawn at the club's presentation night on 26/9/03, contact Sue Perre on 0411 831 927 or email info@balgownierangers.com.au for more details. The club's website is worth to click on www.balgownierangers.com.lau

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### PREMIER LEAGUE:

ADELAIDE CITY	1
RAIDERS	3
ENFIELD CITY	7
PLAYFORD PATRIOTS	0
METRO STARS	1
ADEL BLUE EAGLES	1
MODBURY	2
CROYDON KINGS	0
OLYMPIC F.C.	5
PARA HILLS KNIGHTS	2
WHITE CITY WARRIORS	0
ADELAIDE GALAXY	0

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
METRO STARS	22	17	4	1	53	19	34	55
RAIDERS	22	17	3	2	62	26	36	54
ADEL BLUE EAGLES	22	10	4	8	24	27	-3	34
ADELAIDE GALAXY	22	9	5	8	37	23	14	32
WHITE CITY WARRIORS	22	9	5	8	35	29	6	32
ENFIELD CITY	22	9	4	9	41	37	4	31
OLYMPIC F.C.	22	8	5	9	43	46	-3	29
ADELAIDE CITY	22	8	3	11	26	35	-9	27
CROYDON KINGS	22	6	5	11	32	45	-13	23
MODBURY	22	6	3	13	23	36	-13	21
PARA HILLS KNIGHTS	22	5	3	14	31	47	-16	18
PLAYFORD PATRIOTS	22	4	4	14	29	66	-37	16

### STATE LEAGUE

ADELAIDE HILLS	1
NORTHERN DEMONS	2
CAMPBELLTOWN CITY	5
ADELAIDE COBRAS	1
NOARLUNGA UNITED	0
SALISBURY UNITED	1
PIRATES	5
SEAFORD	1
PORT PIRIE CITY	1
PANTHERS	1
WESTERN STRIKERS	0
CUMBERLAND UNITED	3

## TOP 5 SERIES FIXTURES

### PREMIER LEAGUE

Sat 23 August

Galaxy v White City 12:30pm Marden Sports Complex  
Raiders v Blue Eagles 2:30pm Marden Sports Complex

Sat 30 August

1st Semi Final 12:30pm Marden Sports Complex  
2nd Semi Final 2:30pm Marden Sports Complex

Sat 6 September

Preliminary Final 2:30pm Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium  
Fri 12 September

Grand Final 8:30pm Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium

### STATE LEAGUE

Sun 24 August

Noarlunga v Panthers 12:30pm Marden Sports Complex  
Cumberland v Pirates 2:30pm Marden Sports Complex

Sun 31 August

1st Semi Final 12:30pm Marden Sports Complex  
2nd Semi Final 2:30pm Marden Sports Complex

Sat 6 September

Preliminary Final 12:30pm Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium  
Fri 12 September

Grand Final 6:00pm Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium

# Victorian Premier League 2002/03

## Frankston Fairytale Ends Preston Dream

By Markian Jaworsky

The newly promoted Frankston Pines number one priority in 2003, according to coach Stan Webster earlier this year was survival. Seven months down the track, Frankston have eliminated 2002 Champions and 2003 Minor Premiers Preston Lions in a penalty shoot-out in the preliminary final.

A strong 4000 crowd at BT Connor Reserve, Preston, braved cold and windy conditions but were treated to a match of high drama. The Lions ran with the wind at its strongest in the first half, and only Frankston goalkeeper Stuart Webster (One of three sons of coach Stan in the Frankston line-up), some desperate goal face clearances and the woodwork prevented Preston from scoring.

The wind died down in the second half and surprisingly it was Preston who came out attacking. Preston's Johnny Sapasovski was running hot. Sapasovski's celebrations mid-way through the second half were in vein as

his header was deemed by match referee Damir Basic not to have crossed the line, and play-on was called.

Lions coach, John Markovski, introduced Stiven Mancevski, and immediately he become involved. Within ten minutes of his arrival, Stiven could have scored twice, only Pines keeper Stuart Webster (the hero of the day) and a shot about a foot too high, kept the match scoreless. If Frankston were to score, it would most likely have come from their leading goalscorer Peter Hader or Melbourne Knights bound Nick Waite.

However the Preston defense lead by captain Chris Emsovski kept both strikers quiet all game. In fact, Peter Hader was replaced by Cameron Leopold late in the match.

The inevitable tie breaker to this epic of a Preliminary Final, was a penalty shoot-out. All first five spotkicks from both teams were converted. It was actually Frankston who missed first, but Preston blew their chance to win the match, missing immediately after in sudden death kicks.

Eventually it Preston's wasted chances caught up with them, and now the Frankston Pines will meet the Green Gully Cavaliers in the 2003 Victorian Premier League Grand Final under lights on Sunday August 24 at the Melbourne Knights Stadium.

**LINE-UPS:** Preston Lions #20 Pasi Schwalger (GK), #3 John Angelovski, #5 Les Anastasiou, #6 Peco Dimovski, #7 Josip Kozic, #8 Ivan Filipovski, #9 Stiven Mancevski, #10 Johnny Sapasovski, #11 Vasko Trpceviski, #13 John Dimovski, #14 Chris Emsovski (c), #15 Tony Necesi, #16 Sammy Faris, #17 Nick Cuculevski, #18 Dimce Panev, #19 Roert Dolevski, #1 Francis Aruwatu (GK)

**Coach:** John Markovski, Team Manager: Ace Stojanovski Frankston Pines #1 Stuart Webster (GK), #2 George Tzirtis, #3 Boris Ovcin, #4 Andrew Skledar, #5 Matt Hakvoort, #6 Scott Webster, #7 Simon Webster, #8 Mark Miller, #9 Nick Waite, #10 Cameron Leopold(c), #11 Peter Hader, #12 Trent Malcolm, #13 Craig Elvin, #14 Ross Duckworth, #15 Bill Armour, #16 Chris Nolan, #39 Michael Bonnellin (GK)

Referee: Damir Basic

**GRAND FINAL FIXTURE**  
Green Gully Cavaliers vs Frankston Pines - Knights Stadium - 6PM Kick-Off.



**Frankston Pines star Nick Waite shown in full flight against the Preston Lions.**



# Queensland Lions Soccer Club

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## Premier League Round 25

By Glenn Davis

# LIONS STAKE THEIR CLAIM FOR A NATIONAL LEAGUE SPOT

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane City coach Frank Pimblett has called for the immediate inclusion of Queensland Lions into the national soccer league after his side was handed a 4-nil thrashing in a top of the table premier league clash last weekend.

Pimblett, 43, a former national league great, believes Lions are more than ready for a return to top level football after years in the wilderness.

Pimblett turned down a professional career in England to emigrate to Australia as a 19-year-old playing for Brisbane City in the national league in 1977 and was regarded as one of the best in the country during an eight year career.

He continued playing in the national league joining Brisbane United for two years then had one year with Brisbane Strikers before retirement in 1993.

"Lions have outgrown the Queensland competition and I'd love to see them back in the national league," Pimblett said.

"They're too big for the game here in Brisbane and they have a proven track record in the national league when they were last there.

"Some critics say Brisbane isn't big enough for two teams but Adelaide did it for many years and so did Queensland when both Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City were there.

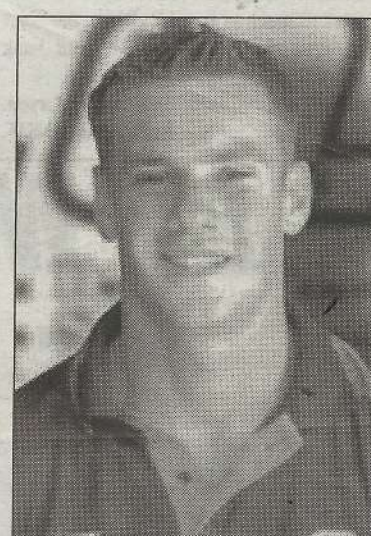
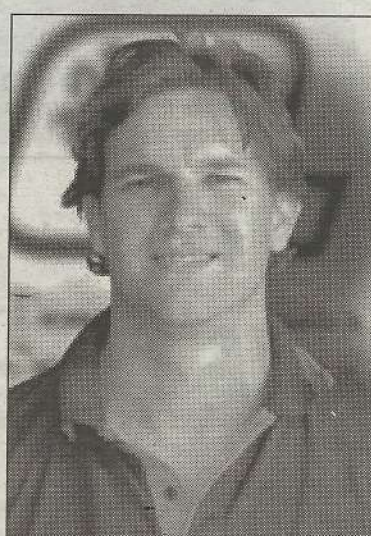
"I think it's worth a go. It would be good for the game in Queensland with two sides in as right now is a bit boring and we need to get some spice going again with local derbies."

Pimblett was disappointed to lose to Lions after Brisbane City were made to look second raters.

Lions' goals came from Warren Moon and Greg Di Losa in the first half while Danny Flaskas and Ross Davidson added two more after the break.

"It's always disappointing to lose, but Lions were too good," Pimblett said.

"We didn't turn up to play on the day. It was nil-all for 30 minutes but we made a few



Queensland Lions stars Warren Moon, Greg Di Losa and Daniel Flaskas were amongst the scorers in their four-nil drubbing of rivals Brisbane City.

mistakes and they punished us like good teams do."

While Lions continued to make the Queensland league a one-sided affair, the semi-final battle heated up after fifth-placed Palm Beach downed Taringa Rovers while fourth-placed Pine Rivers were held to a 1-all draw by Wynnum.

Palm Beach kept its semi-final hopes alive with a hard fought 4-2 home win over Taringa and will make the finals if they beat Souths next week and either Taringa or Pine Rivers fail to win their remaining game.

Palm Beach trailed 1-nil early in the game before grabbing the match by the throat with three quick goals before half time.

Alex Panic was in the thick of things netting a double to give Palm Beach the lead before Russell Miner slotted home Palm Beach's third.

Brisbane Strikers midfielder Peter Grierson banged in the winner after the break from a free kick outside the box.

"I think we shell shocked them," said coach Bob Hamilton.

"We played excellent football in the first half and it was the best we've played all season.

"We went down a goal early but didn't panic but once we got our first goal I was confident we would win.

"They had a couple of sniffs in the second half but I didn't think they ever threatened us."

Taringa's loss has thrown them into a must-win situation against Toowoomba at Jack Speare Park in the final round next week to make the play-offs after being in the top three for most of the season.

"We started well and were up 1-nil when Luke Morley scored after about 15 minutes," said coach John Ogden.

"But for some reason we went off the boil and they scored three goals in 20 minutes,

"They were well on top of us but two of their goals came from goalkeeping mistakes from Mal Van de Graf."

Taringa trailed 3-1 at half time but fought back after the break and had several golden opportunities to win the match.

"I thought we had a couple of chances to come back in the second half but we missed a couple of one-on-ones," Ogden said.

"It was a tight game but overall we gave Peter Grierson too much room.

"It reflected our week leading up to the game with 'flu and injury. We had five guys who couldn't train during the week."

Hamilton disagreed with Ogden's summation of the game and at no time thought Taringa could have won.

"Only in the last 15 minutes I thought they had the better of the play and even then we could have scored on the break a few times," Hamilton said.

Pine Rivers were held to a 1-all draw by Wynnum and need to beat North Star next Sunday to be assured a finals berth.

Wynnum led 1-nil after a 50th minute header by Jeff Hurford before a goal five minutes from time by substitute Darren Bender enabled Pine Rivers to share the points.

"We could easily have lost. We had a lot of chances to win in the first half but didn't put them away," said Pine Rivers coach Clayton Koch.

"The worry for us next week is we have a local derby against North Star while Toowoomba have nothing to play for against Taringa.

"Gold Coast has still got to win their last game to have a hope."

Ipswich Knights continued its frustrating season going down 3-2 away to Toowoomba.

Ipswich is set to figure in a play-off with the second placed first division side at the end of the season to avoid relegation.

"It was a good game and I thought we deserved to win on chances but we couldn't put them away," said Knights coach Andy Ogden.

"We were down 2-nil against the run of play when they got two lucky goals but we had our chances to win.

"At 2-nil down we could have collapsed and given in but we kept fighting.

"We're in a play-off situation for sure to stay up but is so close in first division we're not sure who the opposition will be.

"But it will be either Mitchelton, Easts or University."

Toowoomba's goals came from Chris Wilkes, Jason Bosward and Patrick Lucey.

Rochdale Rovers' slim finals hopes to make the finals remain alive after a 1-nil win over The Gap.

Rochdale's win, courtesy of a Joel Smith 80th minute goal, was more meritorious after playing with 10-men when Paul Grugan was sent off in the 60th minute.

"I'm not sure why Paul was sent off but he got a straight red which was a surprise," said Rochdale coach Keiran Cooper.

"When we lost a man I thought The Gap might grow a leg but they lacked fight.

"Mathematically they were still a chance of staying up but Alun Evans was their only player to show any fight.

"There was no fire in the belly at all from The Gap."

Smith's goal had more than a touch of luck when he mishit his attempt, which somehow slid under keeper Corey Baldock.

"The conditions were terrible and we hit the post three or four times," Cooper said.

North Star and Souths slogged out a nil-all draw in sloppy conditions at O'Callaghan Park.

"It was a kick and chase game in atrocious conditions because of the rain," North Star coach Ken Swan said.

**Premier League:** Rochdale Rovers 1 (Joel Smith) d The Gap 0, North Star 0 v Souths Utd 0, Palm Beach 4 (Alex Panic 2, Russel Miner, Peter Grierson) d Taringa 2 (Luke Morley, Reza Aysen) Toowoomba 3 (Chris Wilkes, Jason Bosward, Patrick Lucey) d Ipswich Knights 2 (Justin Potter, Trent Scott), Queensland Lions 4 (Warren Moon, Greg Di Losa, Daniel Flaskas, Ross Davidson) d Brisbane City Wynnum 1 (Geoffrey Hurford) v Pine Rivers 1 (Darren Bender)

	P	W	L	D	PT
Qld Lions	21	17	2	2	53
Bris. City	21	11	5	5	38
Taringa	21	10	6	5	35
Pine Rivers	21	10	6	5	35
Palm Beach	21	10	7	4	34
Rochdale	21	10	9	2	32
Toowoomba	21	8	8	5	29
Wynnum	21	7	9	5	26
North Star	21	7	9	5	26
Souths	21	6	12	3	21
Ipswich Kn	21	3	13	5	14
The Gap	21	2	15	4	10

**First Division:** Beenleigh 2 d Peninsula 1, Mt Gravatt 4 d Newmarket 0, Albany Ck 1 d Inala 0, Easts 3 d Rocklea 1, Olympic 1 d UQ 0, Capalaba v Redlands Rescheduled 20th Aug, 7.30 pm.

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
EASTERN SUBURBS	25	15	4	4	61	27	34	49
MITCHELTON	25	15	5	3	55	34	21	48
UNI OF QLD	25	14	7	2	46	27	19	44
BRISBANE OLYMPIC UTD	25	11	3	9	40	28	12	42
CAPALABA	24	11	6	5	35	25	10	38
PENINSULA POWER	25	9	10	4	43	31	12	31
MT GRAVATT	25	8	9	7	32	34	-2	31
ROCKLEA UTD	25	7	10	6	37	42	-5	27
REDLANDS UTD	24	6	10	6	32	40	-8	24
BEENLEIGH	25	6	11	6	28	40	-12	24
ALBANY CREEK	25	7	13	3	27	46	-19	24
INALA CITY	25	4	14	5	22	48	-26	17
NEWMARKET	25	5	16	2	23	59	-36	17

# Letters to the Editor



## FAIR GO EMO!!

Dear Sir,

I was disappointed to read Brett Emerton's comments about playing for the Socceroos. It is a real shame about this wonderful game, that our elite players have no desire to come back and play for the country.

It seems as if the multi-million dollar salaries do not buy pride in representing the national side. If players are not available to play for the Socceroos in friendlies, how will the coaching staff obtain a clear view of who will play in the important matches.

It is like signing a club contract, and refusing to play against the likes of Charlton Athletic because they are not a fashionable club!

C'mon fellas, you are earning the kind of money that would make anyone want to work as much as possible. Wear your heart on your sleeve, and not on your bank account!

Ryan Andersen.  
Erskineville, NSW.



Brett Emerton will not be playing in meaningless friendly matches for the Roos this season.

## Big Test For Seven

Dear Sir,

The Ireland game is more than just a test for the Socceroos it is also a test for Channel Seven on behalf of Frank Lowy, but I would hate to be part of Seven sport department if they continue to provide their usual substandard soccer cover in both quantity and quality.

It may be easy to lobb off the likes of Ian Knop, Les Avory, Tony Labbozzetta, David Hill, D. Galati etc but no one displeases the third richest man in Australia and gets away with it scot free.

I suspect that unless Channel Seven lifts their game soccerwise their contract with S.A. will not be worth the paper it is written on.

Soccer coverage (SBS aside) on free to air TV in Oz is one big black hole and always has been.

Only someone like Frank Lowy has the clout to change the situation unlike his predecessors who were ignored by commercial TV interests and the ABC expecting when it suited them.

You see this is the difference between someone who has real power and influence compared to a lot of others who are nothing more than self important nobodies excepting in their own minds.

R. Melor,  
Bondi, NSW, 2026

## DANGER — STALLIONS ON THE LOOSE

Dear Sir,

The good times are well and truly on the way back to the Marconi Stallions.

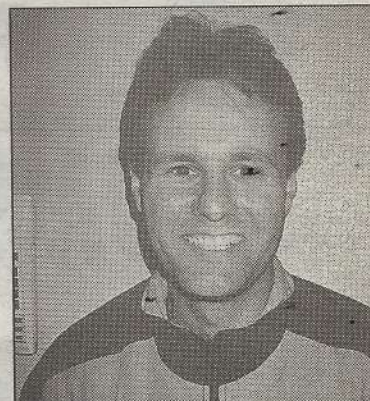
Under Jean Paul De Marigny, the team have a quality young coach who will work towards securing the long term playing future of the team.

After a stale 2002-2003, the club needed new blood to reinvigorate the fledgling 'Rolls Royces', and some crucial acquisitions will see a very competitive squad return to the park.

I'm looking forward particularly to how the new strikeforce will shape up.

Alex Brosque is a brilliant left footed player, Kevo Gulesarian provides the pace and youthful edge, while Spiteri and Harris are proven goalscorers at NSL level.

At the half way stage of the season, when you see Marconi breathing down the



Jean Paul De Marigny: Stallions coach calling the shots this season.

necks of Perth and Parramatta, don't say you haven't been warned!

Mariana Colussi.  
Bossley Park, NSW.

## BE WEARY OF THE REGGAE BOYZ

Dear Sir,

The proposed friendly against Jamaica should be closely watched by FIFA in terms of the standard of play that is produced.

Soccer Australia should treat this friendly as a match that could help secure Oceania a spot in a four team qualifying tournament for the next World Cup.

I think the winner of Oceania is more evenly matched against a CONCACAF nation than a South

American nation.

Traditionally, Europe and South America have been the strongest performers on the world stage, so it is only fair that FIFA arrange a solution that brings together the less successful continents. The teams that would be included are of equal strength and the qualifying would be beneficial and also interesting to watch.

Joyce Arnold.  
Belconnen, ACT.



## OKON AT HIS END?



Paul Okon: Trying to resurrect his career once more.

Dear Sir,

Having closely watched Australia's performances in the past two years, I have come to the conclusion that Paul Okon has reached the end of the line as Socceroo captain, and quite possible, Socceroo player.

He is simply not up to speed with the way Australia play, and his calm, reassur-

ing demeanour, which he displays in his effortless passing, is being clouded out by midfield pressing.

In a 4-4-2 system, there is no time to assess the options, and Farina needs someone with energy and industry to run the centre of the park, a Vince Grella for instance.

Take Italy for example. Demetrio Albertini was the dominant figure in yesteryear because of his ability to pass the ball and dictate the pace of play, but now Gennaro Gattuso and Massimo Ambrosini have the nod because they can keep up with the quicker players, tackle well, impose themselves, and distribute the ball to the flanks and to the creative talents in the team.

With all due respect to Okon, Frank Farina should look at other midfield avenues before the next World Cup campaign starts.

Jackson Jenner.  
Greystanes, NSW.



## BILL TURNER CUP and BILL TURNER TROPHY

### Area Finals

Area 1 Cairns 4 St Brendans Yeppoon 0; Area 2 Brisbane Grammar 2 Bundaberg North 1; Area 3 Kelvin Grove 4 Harristown 0; Area 4 John Paul College 2 Cavendish Road 0; Area 5 Oxley 3 Trinity Lismore 2; Area 6 Kotara 2 Port Macquarie 0; Area 7 St Edwards Gosford 3 Lambton 2; Area 8 Concord 2 Ashfield Boys 1; Area 9 Narrabeen Sports 2 Holy Cross Ryde 1; Area 10 Christ Catholic 2 St Dominies Penrith 1; Area 11 Kingsgrove 2 Hurstville Boys 1; Area 12 Westfields Sports 6 Pat Bros Fairfield 0; Area 13 Narooma 2 Mackillop College 1; Area 14 James Sheehan Orange 2 Delray Dubbo 1; Area 15 Griffith Catholic 2 June 1; Area 16 Edmund Rice College 2 Keira 1.

### Areas Finals (GIRLS)

Area 1 Redbank Plains v Cavendish Road; Area 2 Trinity Lismore 2 Mullumbimby 0; Area 3 Bellingen 3 South Grafton 0; Area 4 Duval 3

Wauchope 0; Area 5 Kurri Kurri 2 ASC St Peters Maitland 1; Area 6 West Wallsend 0-3 Kotara 0-1; Area 7 Northlakes 2 Kincumber 0; Area 8 Donemey College 2-3 Hills Sports 2-2; Area 9 Davidson 2 Riverside Girls 1; Area 10 Emmaus Catholic 1 Christ Catholic 0; Area 11 Endeavour Sports 3 Kirrawee 1; Area 12 Bossley Park 1 Prairiewood 0; Area 13 Orange 1 Canowindra 0; Area 14 Wade 1 Albury 0; Area 15 Vincentia 2 Bulli 1; Area 16 Bega 3 Lynham 1.

### Queensland Results (GIRLS)

Round 3: Dalby 4 Oakley 0, Lockyer District 2 St Ursulas Toowoomba 1, Stanthorpe 6 Warwick 0, Redbank Plains 7 Runcorn 0, Centenary 1 Kenmore 0, Brigadene College 6 St Margarets Anglican 0, Redcliffe 2 Wavell Heights 1, The Gap 2 Dakabin 1, Gympie 4 Nambour 2, Palm Beach 6 All Saints 0.  
Round 4: Lockyer District 3 Dalby 2, Stanthorpe 2 Harristown 1, Redbank Plains 9 Lowood 0, Brigadene College

65 Centenary 0, Redcliffe 2 The Gap 1, Gympie 3 Aspley 0, Palm Beach 6 Redlands 0.

Round 5: Lockyer District 3 Stanthorpe 0, Redbank Plains 4 Brigadene College 2, Redcliffe 1 Gympie 0, Cavendish Road 2 Palm Beach 0.

Round 6: Redbank Plains 2-6 Lockyer District 2-5, Cavendish Road 1-5 Redcliffe 1-4.

### CHS PUMA CUP Quarter Finals

Lambton 2 Belmore Boys 1, Prairiewood 2 Lisarow 1, Westfields Sports 1 Woollooware 0, Epping Boys 4 Kooringal 0.

### CHS PUMA SHIELDS Quarter Finals

Pott Hacking -1 Hills Sports 0, Westfields Sports 3 Bathurst 0, Hunter Sports 1 Endeavour Sports 0, Mackellar Girls 2 Albury 1.

# SOCCERWOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

## QANTAS MATILDAS DEPART THIS WEEKEND

Five Matches In Which To Fine-Tune Enroute To World Cup

The time is almost upon us. The Qantas Matildas depart this week, and there's no looking back. FIFA Women's World Cup USA 2003 - Here We Come!

The Qantas Matildas have a confirmed schedule of five international matches enroute to the FIFA Women's World Cup as their final preparation for the 16-nation flagship event of women's soccer, it was announced on Friday.

The team departs this Sunday 24 August for China, then travels to England, Scotland, and Canada, playing the national team of each of those countries (China twice), before arriving in the US for the World Cup itself.

"We've been building towards this World Cup and now the time has arrived," said National Coach Adrian Santrac. "We leave on the 24th and we won't be back until our commitments at the World Cup are finished, and these five games are critical preparations for our World Cup. We go into these games without clearly knowing where we are and what we are able to achieve at the World Cup."

The Qantas Matildas will gain an early look at China before playing them in match two of the World Cup. China, runners-up at the 1999 Women's World Cup, and ranked fourth in the FIFA Women's Rankings, will face Australia in two matches, Thursday 28 August in Jinan, and Sunday 31 August in Qingdao, both in the Shandong province. It will be the first meeting between the two nations since August 2000 when Australia won on a penalty shootout after a nil-all scoreline at full-time. This was one of only two Australian victories against traditional superstars China in the 13 matches to date.

Despite England being the traditional home of football, Australia has never previously played the mother land in a senior international. England, ranked 13th (two places above Australia in 15th), narrowly missed out on qualification for the Women's World Cup and will be out to prove their worth against the Oceania champions. The match will be played in England's north-west on Thursday 4 September at Burnley FC's Turf Moor ground, and will be broadcast live in England on Sky Sports.

Scotland have improved immensely over recent years under Dutch coach Vera Pauw, and last year were promoted to the top tier of European competition.

With a ranking of 30th, Scotland will play the Qantas Matildas on Saturday 6 September at Livingston, the national training centre for Scottish football. Australia's only previous match against Scotland was held as part of the 1995 Pre-World Cup tour, a dour 0-0 draw.

Canada are preparing for their Women's World Cup campaign where they may be considered a dark horse, having improved steadily since 1999 under Norwegian coach Even Pellerud and producing some very solid results against top teams. Canada, ranked 12th, will face Germany, Japan, and Argentina in Group C of the World Cup.

Australia has defeated Canada in six of their 12 matches all-time, but only once in the four games since the 1999 World Cup. In their last two matches last September, the Qantas Matildas lost 0-2 and then won 1-0 in Canada.

Canada will host Australia on Sunday 14 September in Kingston, Ontario, after which the Qantas Matildas will travel to Los Angeles in readiness for their opening World Cup on Sunday 21 September against Russia.

"The important thing with these five matches is to find our form, and to continue to evolve our game,"

said Santrac. "This will be more about working on ourselves and our own game rather than preparing ourselves to take on particular opponents."

One match against each of South Korea and Japan last month were the first internationals played by the Qantas Matildas since qualifying for the Women's World Cup in April.

The FIFA Women's World Cup USA 2003 is scheduled for 20 September to 12 October.

The Qantas Matildas open their campaign on Sunday 21 September against Russia in Los Angeles, followed by China on Thursday 25 September in Los Angeles, then Ghana on Sunday 28 September in Portland.

The Final Draw for the 2003 Women's World Cup, held on 17 July, produced the following groups -

**Group A** - USA, Sweden, Nigeria, DPR Korea

**Group B** - Norway, France, Brazil, Korea Republic

**Group C** - Germany, Canada, Japan, Argentina

**Group D** - China, Ghana, AUSTRALIA, Russia.

USA was named as the new host nation after FIFA moved the event from original host China following the outbreak of the SARS virus.

USA 2003 is the fourth Women's World Cup, and will be Australia's third consecutive Women's World Cup finals appearance. The Qantas Matildas placed 12th (of twelve nations) in Sweden 1995, and 11th (of sixteen) in USA 1999.

## STOCCO WIN'S W-LEAGUE AWARD

Boston Renegades and former Qantas Young Matildas midfielder Stacey Stocco was a week ago named winner of the W-League Rookie of the Year award in the US.

The 19-year-old South Australian has indeed made her mark in this her first season in any overseas league. Stocco made the move to Boston in April, the defending W-League national champions after winning the crown in both 2001 and 2002.

Following the 14-round season, Stocco was second-top scorer for Boston and in the top ten in the league with 8 goals (eighth) and 5 assists (eighth) for a total of 21 points (ninth). The Australian was also Boston's only player to play in all 14 matches in the regular season, totalling 1,167 minutes, placing her 13th in the league.

In addition to the major award, Stocco was also named in the W-League All-League Team, and the W-League All-Conference Teams (Eastern Conference).

During the course of the season, Stocco was W-League Player of the Week once, and made the W-League Team of the Week four additional occasions.

Boston Renegades topped the ladder in the Eastern Conference's Northern Division with an undefeated season of 13 wins and a draw, but unfortunately were unable to win a record third consecutive league title after losing their Northern Division final 2-3 to Ottawa Fury last week.

The playmaking midfielder was a key member of the Qantas Young Matildas team which placed 5th at the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship in Canada last year.

Stocco is the second Australian to win this particular award, Qantas Matildas striker Kelly Golebiowski claiming the trophy in 2001, a performance which played a major part in her securing a professional contract with Washington Freedom in the WUSA this year.



Kelly Golebiowski

### Qantas Matildas Schedule - Pre-World Cup Tour:

Sun 24 August	Travel to China
Thu 28 August	AUSTRALIA v CHINA, in Jinan
Sun 31 August	AUSTRALIA v CHINA, in Qingdao
Tue 2 September	Travel to England
Thu 4 September	AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND, in Burnley
Fri 5 September	Travel to Scotland
Sat 6 September	AUSTRALIA v SCOTLAND, in Livingston
Sun 7 September	Travel to Canada
Sun 14 September	AUSTRALIA v CANADA, in Kingston
Mon 15 September	Travel to Los Angeles

### Qantas Matildas Schedule - Women's World Cup, Group Matches

Sun 21 September	AUSTRALIA v RUSSIA, in Los Angeles
Thu 25 September	CHINA v AUSTRALIA, in Los Angeles
	Sun 28 September
	GHANA v AUSTRALIA, in Portland

# PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

Nige and Derek here with BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Each week we bring you all the no-nonsense news and our views from around the grounds of the English Premier League.

We'll kick off this week with a load of last minute Premiership shopping. Clubs other than ManU and Chelski, have been flashing the cash this week as they try to scramble for some last minute bargains from any-



Nige and Derek: The Bizarro Boys

where in Europe. Cashless clubs like Charlton Athletic have got in with a biggie by signing resident nutter, Pauline Di Canio. The only surprise here is that he didn't end up at Pompey with Old mate Arry Redknapp (as there was never any doubt that he was on his way out of Upton Sheds). Di Canio has said that Curbishly should have been the boss at West Hammonds. So all is rosy at The Valley...for now. Even good old boy Sammy Alardyce has found some

loose change kicking around and used it to sign up Jardel, who was released by Sporting Lisbon and put pen to a 2 year contract. It makes a change for Big Sam to actually sign someone, as opposed to bringing them in on loan. This could be a good signing as Jardel is a 2-time winner of the Golden Boot Award.

Even groundless and cashless Fulham have been wheeling and dealing. They are jiggy about Blunderland midfielder, Claudia Reyna, whilst at the same time accepting bids from Boro and Everton for midfielder Seana Davis for about 2 mill.

Old Barrow boy Arry Redknapp is never far from the negotiation table. He is interested in Leeds full back Ian Harte, who is all free kicks and no defence. Multi-tasking Arry is not finished there; he has raided old stomping ground Upton

Sheds and come away with right wing back Seb Schemmel.

As predicted last week, Kevin Philips will sign for The Saints from St Mary's for 3.25 mil, taking a 50% pay cut. He'll make his debut alongside new chum Jimbo Beattie. I think this pair will cause a lot of defences a lot



### Premiership Bizarrio

of nightmares during the coming campaign.

Of course, we can't talk any transfer bollocks without mentioning Cashed up units, ManU and Chelski. Chelski got their Champs League

qualifiers off to a good start as they strolled to a 2-0 win in Slovakia over Zelina. There were 6 debutants on this day, when Red Roman watched his new outfit on a special live feed from his luxury yacht off Alaska. Rumour has it that the live feed pulled so much power from the grid that it was partly responsible for the mass black-out in America. This geezer is loaded! Hey Rommy, how about Derek and myself commentating on the games, live on your yacht but preferably off the coast of a warmer climate than Alaska (this week we can be bought!).

Whilst Red is putting together a suitable offer for our services, he is also putting a deal together for surplus Real midfielder Claudette Makelele. Having heard this, and for some obscure reason, Claudette decided to go on strike to get more dough out of Real, say-

ing that he should be paid the same as all the other superstars. Real have cancelled talks with Roman Roubles because of this. Are we missing something here? Or is Claudette out of there and will he get more cash at Chelski???

ManU have unveiled new signings, Kleberson, who is really happy with his new work permit and young Portuguese Ronaldo of the Christiano variety, who was promptly given Becks old No 7.

If you mention the red \_ of Manchester you have to mention the blue \_ Man City returned to European action with a 5-0 thumping of Welsh Corporate Games winners Total Network Solutions. My mate Robbing Fowler still couldn't get his name on the score sheet. My prediction of 1 goal by Xmas is looking better every day!

In other action, south of the Premier League, Brighton fans have had

enough of defender Guy Butters. It seems that the Butters Boo Boys have really had a gutful of the crappy performance turned in each week by the former Spurs player. As a result of this they have put him up for sale on E-Bay with a reserve of 5 quid. This sales patter goes like this, "For Sale: One centre-half, king-size, as new, hardly used. In original condition, complete with large quantity of protective padding.

Selling due to high maintenance costs - costs £2,000 a week new." There have been no offers. From what I remember about Guy Butters, DynamoBizarrio F.C will not be making a bid.

There endeth another week of Premiership Bizarrio. Don't forget to tune your computer each week to www.bananatv.com for all the latest bollocks.

See you next week!  
Nige & Derek  
Premiership Bizarrio

# NEWS FROM THE NATIONS CAPITAL

By Graham Cooke

After three years of moderate success in the NSW Premier League, Belconnen Blue Devils are ready to step up a gear, new coach Chris Tanzey said.

"That's how they put it to me, and that's the understanding under which I came to the club," the former national women's coach said in his first interview after returning from a short holiday in Britain.

That break, for a family wedding, enabled the former Liverpool apprentice to revisit his former club and drink in the heightened anticipation that always surrounds big soccer at the onset of another English season.

He is back even more

determined to make his return to club football a successful one. "Of course I could go to Belconnen and go through the motions, train two or three nights, oversee the match at weekends and go home again, but that's not me," he said.

"One of the things that really impressed me when I was overseas was the situation surrounding Chelsea. They finished fourth last year and got into the European Champions League, which you would think is a pretty successful season, but even so the manager has gone out to buy six new players so they can win this time round.

"Even at that level, there is a significant gap between finishing fourth and first. So if Belconnen are not looking at a grand final appearance, I

honestly don't think it's worth starting out."

His first task will be to bring a third coach on board to complement him and youth team boss Oscar Langone. "There are two or three people in mind and I hope the club can make an announcement shortly," he said.

"Both Oscar and the new person will be my assistants as well as having areas of direct responsibility. I will be looking for a coordinated effort and for a start the youth and first-team squads will be training together. If a youth team player shows he is good enough, then I want him to be able to step straight into the first without any psychological barriers."

He will also have to wrestle with the salary cap

imposed by the league. "There are a couple of new players I want on board, but it may be a case of juggling things to make sure we stay under the cap," he said.

"Certainly it would be very difficult to attract players here from outside Canberra. "We have to balance what we can offer new players against the need to be fair to those who are already with us."

In the end, that may entail putting additional resources into youth development. "That's where Oscar's experience in the youth team job is going to be invaluable," he said.

"We have a bit of competition at this level from Canberra Deakin and the ACT Academy of Sport, who both want players for the

National Youth League, but we do have the advantage of having a huge junior set-up at Belconnen.

"It's all about giving kids a pathway, through the juniors, into the youth and then the seniors - and I want to involve Belconnen United in the winter competition, maybe by playing the previous summer's youth side in the ACT Premiership.

"If the club wants to evolve and maybe enter the NSL at some stage, then we have to present a fully professional image, not just throughout Canberra, but in the wider soccer community. Maybe it won't happen overnight, but in 12 to 18 months we should be seeing the benefits."

Belconnen United's startling turnaround in the Premiership under coach Steve Forshaw has ignited speculation about the former ACT representative team boss returning to top soccer on a permanent basis - speculation the man himself is anxious to damp down.

"The question of my longevity in this position does not arise, I am here until the end of the season and no longer," he said after Belconnen had secured a 2-0 win over Tuggeranong United.

George Kulcsar, who returned to Canberra last year after a successful professional career in Europe, has been considering continuing in soccer as a coach. He now has his wish having

taken over at the helm of the Premiership's bottom club, University of Canberra Pumas.

It is unlikely even the vast experience he has gained over more than a decade in Belgium and England can save the University from relegation - they are currently seven points adrift at the foot of the table.

The ACT Academy of Sport's Steven Hayes joined the Australian Institute of Sport squad, albeit temporarily, for last week's international soccer challenge in Adelaide, giving the youngster the experience of competing against youth teams of the quality of Liverpool, Hajduk Split and Panathinaikos.

## JOEYS FAIL IN FINLAND

\*Reports courtesy from Soccer Australia

The Qantas Joeys suffered two defeats in their first two matches in last week's U17 World Cup all but ending their dreams of continuing onto the second round of the tournament.

Their first loss to South American giants Argentina and their second match defeat from the Nigerians made their final outing against the Costa Ricans as a nothing to play for but pride match.

### 1ST MATCH - Argentina

The Joeys suffered a 2-0 defeat against Argentina in their opening match of the FIFA U-17 World Championship that was played in Turku, Finland last Wednesday.

The Australians went into the match as underdogs with the Argentineans not only South American champions, but also considered one of the favourites for the tournament.

The Australians suffered a double-blow during the first half when firstly the Argentineans scored an early goal in just the 6th minute as

Ezequiel Garay curled a free-kick from outside the penalty area into the top left corner. This was followed by the dismissal of Nigel Boogaard late in the first half for a second cautionable offence.

Boogaard, who had been pushed into midfield away from his normal position in the centre of defence, had earlier been booked in the incident that lead to the first goal and he received his second caution in the 41st minute.

The best chance of the game of the game for the Joeys came in the 32nd minute when a Richie Cardozo header forced the Argentinean goalkeeper into a great save.

With the team down to ten men, Qantas Joeys coach Ange Postecoglou was forced to reshuffle his formation and striker Matt Hilton was replaced by midfielder Erik Paartalu leaving Cardozo to play as a lone striker.

Despite a glut of second half possession, Argentina were only able to breach a solid Joeys defence led by captain Jacob Timpano on one occasion. Argentina finally secured their second goal when a cross from the right was headed in by Ariel Colzera in the 69th minute.

The best chance for the

Joeys in the second half came when a header from Timpano was deflected just wide following a Dane Richardson corner.

The result continues Argentina's impressive record at U-17 level with the South Americans undefeated in their last 11 group matches at U-17 World Championship level dating back to 1993.

### 2ND MATCH - Nigeria

Australia conceded two goals in the last 17 minutes of its match with Nigeria to lose 2-1 that means we will not progress to the quarter finals of the U-17 World Championships for only the second time in our history.

Having led since the 2nd minute of the match, after Dez Giraldi scored with a cracking volley, Australia looked to be coping with the Nigerians, until a shot from Nigerian midfielder John Mikel in 73rd the took a deflection and gave Nick Crossley no chance.

With the Nigerian's now full of confidence they continued to attack, forcing several good saves from Crossley before he was beaten again in the 84th minute by Ezekial Bala.

Needing a win or a draw to stay alive in the competition, the Qantas Joeys played their hearts out but in the end the experience of the Nigerian's saw them get home.

The game could not have got off to a better start for Australia, with just 90 seconds on the clock, Giraldi collected a Erik Paartalu through ball and cracked a volley past the stunned Nigerian keeper.

With heads up the Qantas Joeys continued to control possession and limit the Nigerian's on the ball, with

most of their attempts at goal coming from distance and mostly way off line.

A defensive mix-up in the 37th minute almost cost Australia dearly, but Crossley made a great save and Australia held their one goal to the break.

As expected Nigeria lifted the tempo at the start of the second half and within the space of a minute, captain Jacob Timpano was forced to

clear a goal bound shot off the line, while Crossley made a superb finger-tip save from a long range shot.

Adam Casey nearly extended Australia's lead in the 54th minute with a fierce drive from the edge of the box, but the Nigerian keeper was able to tap away for a corner.

On 66 minutes Giraldi had the best chance to extend Australia's lead when put through and with only the

keeper to beat, tried to chip him from the edge of the box and only succeeded in putting his shot over the crossbar.

Nigeria then lifted their urgency in attack and shooting from anywhere and once they equalised the momentum had definitely swung in their favour and they duly scored a second to record the win.

Australia's last match of the tournament is on Wednesday morning (Australian time)

against Costa Rica.

**Australian line-up:** Nick Crossley (gk); Ben Griffin, Keegan Wolfenden, Jacob Timpano (c), Erik Paartalu (Serkan Oksuz 86'), Dez Giraldi, Adam Casey, Richard Cardozo (Matt Christensen 55'), Adrian Leijer, Dane Richardson (Lachlan Cahill 71'), Angelo Martino

**Goals:** Dez Giraldi 2' **Cautions:** Adrian Leijer 29', Keegan Wolfenden 92'

## ACT WRAP

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin are one point away from their 10th ACT Premiership title after beating Cooma 4-1 at Nijong Oval on Saturday.

The only team that could catch them, Canberra Olympic, saw their hopes evaporate when they could only draw 1-1 with a stubborn Canberra City.

They will now have to face Deakin at Deakin Oval on Sunday without goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou who was sent off for a handball offence outside his penalty area. Deakin will also be without a key man - defender David Milin was dismissed less than half an hour into the match against Cooma.

After a wobbly mid-season, Deakin were back to their dominating best against Cooma, usually a very difficult team to beat on their own ground.

They hit the home side with three goals in the first 17 minutes - a header by Milin from a corner with just over 60 seconds on the clock followed by a gem of a moment in which Gabby Exposito and Paul Ivanic carved up the defence for Ivanic to score.

Then Ivanic set up Michael Katz who, seeing Jovan Naumovski off his line, chipped over the goalkeeper's head into the net.

Milin's send-off, for dangerous use of his elbows, stemmed the rush, although with youngster Aiden Brunskill doing Milin's job at the heart of the defence, Cooma's chances were still limited. Ivanic got his second in the 83rd minute and the home side finally received some reward when a header from Nathan Caldwell from a throw in caught goalkeeper Francois Bangweni flat-footed.

Ivanic, who is already training with Sydney United for the NSL season, was already beginning to show the benefits, Trninic said.

Cooma team boss Vasko Petrovski said that on the day they were beaten by a better team. "I counted five chances for Deakin and they scored four, and six chances for us with one

scored - that was the difference," he said.

City coach Steve Bryant said he would support any appeal by Konstantinou against his send-off. "It was very harsh," he said. "Angelo was out of the area and was preparing to chest the ball down, but it took a bad bounce and hit him on the arm.

His star player was Ilija Prenzovski. "He carved Olympic apart on a number of occasions and laid on the ball that Chris Byrne put away for our equaliser," he said.

Olympic's second place is in danger after Gungahlin Juventus rattled up the biggest score of the season with their 10-2 win over University of Canberra, the University netting the first and last goals.

In between Steve Lazzari struck five to move into the lead for the Premiership's Golden Boot, Geoff Howarth claimed a hat-trick, backed by singles from Robbie Schroder and John Glass. Juventus also became the first side this season to notch up a half-century of goals.

Tuggeranong United were another team among the goals, beating ANU 6-2. The University matched their fourth-placed opponents for much of the first half, going in for the interval 3-2 down, but fell away badly in the second. United's scorers were Loric David (2), Matt Menser (2), one a penalty, Carlos Grande and Ben Doyle.

### ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	15	13	2	0	48	8	41
Canberra Olympic	15	10	3	2	46	18	33
Gungahlin Juventus	15	9	4	2	52	26	31
Tuggeranong United	15	7	3	5	27	22	24
Cooma	15	5	5	5	30	28	20
Canberra City	15	3	7	5	24	26	16
Capital City Suns	15	5	1	9	20	39	16
Belconnen United	15	4	3	8	23	39	15
ANU	15	3	1	11	22	45	10
University of Canberra	15	0	3	12	9	48	3

### MATCH STATISTICS

**Argentina** ..... **2**  
(Ezequiel Garay 6', Ariel Colzera 69')

**Australia** ..... **0**

**Australian line-up:** Nick Crossley, Ben Griffin, Nigel Boogaard, Keegan Wolfenden, Jacob Timpano (c), Kristian Sarkies (Dane Richardson 46'), Adam Casey, Richie Cardozo, Adrian Leijer, Matt Hilton (Erik Paartalu 43'), Angelo Martino (Serkan Oksuz 72')

**Cautions:** Nigel Boogaard 5', Nigel Boogaard 41', Kristian Sarkies 44'

**Expulsions:** Nigel Boogaard 41'

# Green & Gold Army Series

**Green & Gold Army**  
http://www.ggarmy.com

## S O C C E R N O O S

Welcome to your August Edition of **SoccernooS**. It is a big month for Aus Soccer with our beloved Socceroos in action in Ireland as well as our Joeys set for the Under 17 World Cup in Finland.

Get together with the GGArmy for the Socceroos v Ireland

LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN

Australia v Ireland  
Direct from Dublin

In Melbourne head to



In Sydney head to



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20  
Broadcast commences at 6am

The Socceroos have never met Ireland at senior international level and will enlist the likes of Liverpool star Harry Kewell and Leeds United's Mark Viduka to battle the Irish team that will include it's own stars including Robbie Keane and Damien Duff. Green and Gold Army President John McGuaran says "The Irish have hit top form in their recent Euro qualifiers and will be more than a handful for our Socceroos who were so brilliant in the thrashing of England in February".

As the thousands who attended the last Socceroos match there in February will testify, Federation Square provides a marvellous setting for Melbourne's sports mad public to congregate and watch this historic match on the centres big screen. Located just a free kick from Flinders Street Station, Federation Square is an ideal spot to pop into before work to grab a coffee, some breakfast or just to deck yourself in Green and Gold and watch the game, which should conclude at around 8am-just in time, for work or school!

**The GGArmy.com Message Board is here!**

By popular demand ggarmy.com has launched its Fans Forum which can be accessed by all registered members at the top of the site.

It is THE place to virtually congregate to discuss happenings in our national teams and other general Aus Soccer scuttle butt. Jump on today, have a chat and spread the word that Australia's soccer community has a new place to spout opinions and meet with their fellow fans.

### Where to go for a real craic in Dublin

If you are a foreign based GGArmy member or you're just lucky enough to head to Dublin, we have packaged up both pre and post match functions.

#### Pre Match (4pm to 7pm)

Soak up the atmosphere and warm-up the vocal cords with a few drinks before the match at one of the closest pubs to the ground

**The Lansdowne Hotel (Den Bar)**

27/29 Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge

(Directions: Only 30 min walk up Baggot St from city centre or catch bus 10 from Trinity College)

#### Match Time (Kick Off 7:30pm)

Be Proud and Sing it Loud with us in the official Australian supporters section on the East Terrace (note: must have tickets for area)

#### Post Match

Win, lose or draw its back to the Lansdowne Hotel (see above) for a few local drinks before heading into the city to complete the celebrations at the Down Under Bar opened until late

**Down Under (@ Major Toms)**

South King Street (St Stephens Green Shopping Centre)

Opened to late with DJ



### Socceroos shirt giveaway-Winners announced next week

The winner of our Adidas Socceroos Jersey giveaway will be announced at our function for the Socceroos v Ireland-who will it be?

Remember all members are in the draw so get down to Federation Square or

One World Sport to see if it was you.

More competitions are coming soon so stay tuned!

### Tales from Dublin

Andy Pascalidis and his Elite Sports Travel group are friends of the GGArmy. Andy and the team have put together a package for the Ireland game and will be trekking through the UK and Ireland as we write. There will no doubt be many-stories to tell when they are back. If you are an Aussie Abroad or home in Australia and have a soccer related tail to tell, drop us a line at admin@ggarmy.com and we'll put it on the site to share with your fellow fans.

### Follow the Joeys progress at ggarmy.com

As usual ggarmy.com will be posting all the latest news on how our Joeys are faring in the U17 World Cup. The boys face a tough ask but should they get through to the latter parts of the tournament we can only hope that one of the Free to air networks will get their hands on the rights to broadcast games-if this occurs you will be the first to know!

# "Socceroos United"

by Mark van Aken

When Uruguay bundled Australia out of yet another World Cup in 2001, my tear soaked visage adorned the MX, Melbourne's popular commuter paper, under the banner "Cup agony".

Somewhere amongst the tale of how the Socceroos hopes and dreams had de-railed was a quote from yours truly describing the result "as like the loss of a family member".

The fact that I had been up all night at a famous Melbourne drinking hole and my whistle was more than well lubricated couldn't stop the calls from numerous relations not the least bit impressed that I apparently valued their lives on par with the result of a football game.

In the cold light of day that afternoon there was a numbness that really could only be compared to someone close to you passing on. There was a legitimate sense of hopelessness and agony, knowing that another 4 years would pass, another 1460 days would come and go before we even had the chance to once again step on to the world's premiere stage.

There is something about soccer and in particular the Socceroos that stirs emotions

far deeper than any of our other national teams. For one cultural and societal reason or another, Australia never has and probably never will have the fervent nationalism of the USA, England or most countries for that matter. Resultantly the national anthem rarely brings more than a murmur when sung before sporting events of any kind.

This is not so at Socceroos fixtures. This author defies any living Australian to watch the tape of Australia v Iran at the MCG from 1997, where Advance Australia Fair was belted out louder and prouder than ever before or since, and not get goose bumps on every inch of their body.

There are several contributing factors to the deep seeded emotion linked to supporting our national soccer teams. First and foremost there is no bigger event than the World Cup. In sheer size and global appeal it dwarfs the summer and winter Olympics combined. Soccer is global culture and global culture is soccer.

George Negus once said the two constants in the world are 'Coca Cola and Soccer'. For the same reason we ogle over Olympic Gold far more than the Commonwealth variety, soccer's World Cup is the one truly global uni-sport truly event.

However I suspect the passion runs deeper for other reasons still. When you look at the Socceroos themselves they really are a snap shot of modern Australian society.

A mixture of Greeks, Italians, Croats, Anglos, Celts-the list goes on. If you took 11 people from your own train, tram or bus on the way home they would most likely be of a similar ethnic make up to the Socceroos. This is true of our soccer teams more than pretty much any other of our high profile national teams.

The Socceroos break down the key dividing barriers of ours or any society- race and class. Soccer itself is egalitarian in its nature in this country and the pride and passion for Australia shown by people like Mark Viduka is inspirational. A man who tutors us all to respect our ethnicity and past while still being acutely aware of our present and future.

From the Kewell to Viduka and Bresciano to Moore, we see a piece of ourselves in the Socceroos, a sense of belonging. When we win in Cricket, Rugby League or Union we are proud, but there is still a hollow feeling, as we are not performing on a truly universal stage.

I wasn't alive the last time Australia reached the Holy Grail of the World Cup

finals. It's fair to say that the hype back in 1974 would pail against the incredible surge in human atmosphere that will bring together all Australians should Socceroos finally make it back to the Promised Land in 3 years time. Despite it's constant mismanagement, the game has come along way since those days, as has our vibrant pluralist Australian society.

The world is now a smaller place thanks to satellites, e-mail and the World Wide Web. Soccer takes pride of place as the sport of choice in this new e-world and this has helped to erode the tyranny of distance we as Australian soccer fans have felt for so long.

When the World Cup comes around in Germany and the Socceroos are there, all of Australian society will learn what avid soccer followers have known for years-sleep comes a distant second to the world game. We who follow soccer must have lower life expectancies than those who don't. We must be more susceptible to flus and colds and generally more tired as a collective group as any in society.

Adverse sleep patterns are part and parcel of following the Europe centric beautiful game down under. SBS, so long the doyenne of soccer broadcasting in

Australia, recently produced a promotional poster featuring a guy at the foot of his bed in his pyjama pants and a Liverpool jersey in a state of hysteria viewing a TV screen. In the background was his significant other with an appropriate look of disdain on her face as it was almost certainly the middle of the night. The poster was titled 'Contraception' next to an SBS logo. This more than anything else symbolises the plight of Australian soccer fans.

And thus will be the case not only at the next World Cup but as soon as August when the Socceroos play their next international friendly against Ireland at Dublin's Lansdowne Road played this week. Australia's national soccer supporters group, the Green and Gold Army, are organising many events around the country for the early hours of the 21st.

A World Cup spot is not on the line but the excitement is building all the same. Pre-match replays featuring past glories and failures alike will glisten across the big screens. Inevitably thoughts will turn to our most recent failings in the form of Uruguay and Iran. The tears may well but in time pass, as the future of our country in this great global game is looking nothing but bright.

# No Show For 'Easy Matches'-Emerton

**B**rett Emerton told Soccerroo coach Frank Farina last week he no longer wants to travel all the way to Australia for meaningless friendlies.

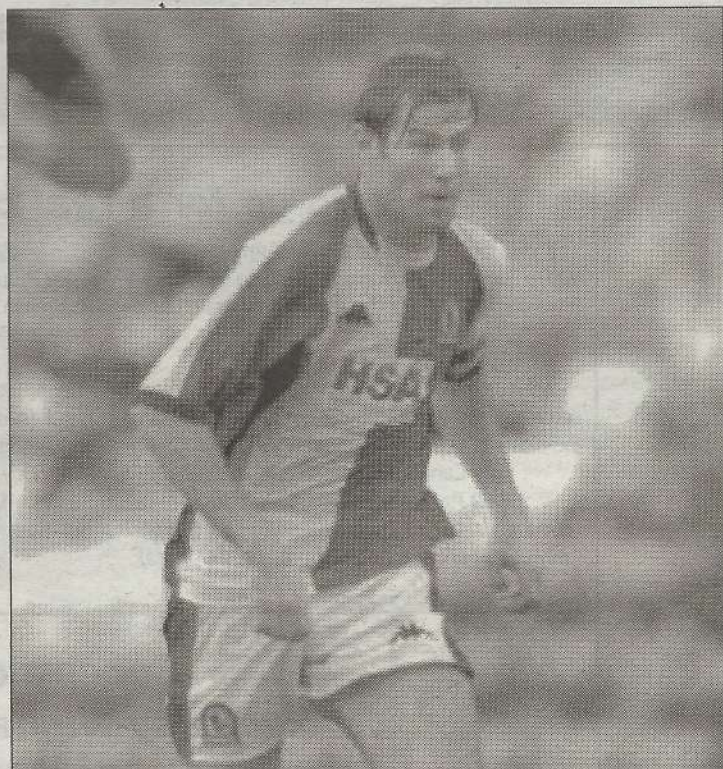
Speaking to 'The Australian', Emerton stated his stance on the issue of coming down-under in playing friendly matches against the island nations of Oceania.

"I love to represent my country but I don't want to spend 48 hours in the air for a real easy game," Emerton said. "Our next competitive games will be World Cup qualifiers and they are over a year away, so there shouldn't be a problem this season."

"I definitely want to be involved in the games in Europe, that won't be a problem. Those long flights really knock you around, so the only international matches I'll be involved with will be those taking place in Europe."

"I have a good understanding with the manager (Souness) about my international commitments. I know that it has caused a few problems in the past with Australian players, but myself and Lucas Neill are both involved in the national squad and there are games that we will not travel for."

After playing the Republic of Ireland today, the Soccerroos are set to take on Jamaica at Reading's home ground the Madejski Stadium in September, and Soccer Australia is negotiating with African and South American opponents to hold friendlies in Melbourne and Sydney in November.



Brett Emerton has stated that he won't be pulling on the Green & Gold jersey in 'easy' friendly matches.

In Turku, Finland where the Australian Under-17 team is preparing for the World Cup, Farina refused to comment on the matter.

"I've got no thoughts on the issue until I speak to the boy. Seriously, I've got nothing to say until I speak to him," Farina said.

But Emerton's agent Simon

Konstantinidis tried to play down the stance, saying it will only affect games that have no bearing on the Soccerroos' world standing.

"Brett takes great pride in playing for Australia, he would never forsake his country," Konstantinidis said.

"He always has and always will put Australia first, but in saying that, he understands he has certain obligations to his new club."

"The general public must understand that if the Soccerroos scheduled what I describe as a Mickey Mouse fixture against a Western Samoa midweek and Blackburn were to play a Manchester United, he would choose club ahead of country. The soccer authorities are fully aware of his club obligations."

*"I love to represent my country but I don't want to spend 48 hours in the air for a real easy game,"*  
— Brett Emerton

# KNIGHTS-SOUTH TRANSFER BUSY

**M**elbourne Knights coach Ian Dobson is set to bring St Albans youngster Tom Razov to the club.

The left-sided midfielder, 18, has impressed Dobson in this year's Victorian Premier League and the coach told the *Herald-Sun*: "He's got a good left foot, his attacking side of the game is good, he's got pace and he crosses a good ball."

"The defensive side is something we can teach him and he'll get even better once he adjusts. I expect him to compete for the left side with another youngster, Fikret Husanovic, who is only 18 as well."

Dobson also has former Hibs striker Sean Widera trialling at Knights stadium and has recommended to his board that they offer terms to out of contract South

Melbourne forward Peter Buljan.

Meanwhile down at South Melbourne, the club is still to

sign former West Ham and Peterborough fullback Steve Laurie.

The youngster has been trialling with South after returning to Melbourne over the close-season.

"Australia U20 prospect Ray Sekulovski is also yet to be offered terms, while veteran Marcus Stergiopoulos is another trialling with the club."

South Melbourne have confirmed the recruitment of former Football Kingz midfielder Lev Osman.

Osman returns to hometown Melbourne after a year away in Europe, trialling and playing in Turkey and Romania.

South are also in talks with Greek club Xanthi about extending Bill Damianos' loan for another season.



Levent Osman has been snapped up by South Melbourne this season.

# Louis Brain — The New Scholar At The Strikers

**N**ew Brisbane Strikers coach Stuart McLaren has notched up his first signing from outside of last season's Strikers squad, with the capture of talented young midfielder Louis Brain.

The player joined the Brisbane Strikers squad yesterday (Monday) for his first training session with his new squad.

Brain, who played last season for Sydney United after playing since the 1998/99 season with Adelaide City, was part of the same Australian Under 17s squad as former Strikers favourites Wayne Srooj and Jade North. He was an ever-present part of the team that made it all the way to the 1999 FIFA World Championships before losing to Brazil in a penalty shoot-out.

McLaren is expecting Brain to add zest to the Brisbane Strikers midfield. "He's an exciting, all-action type of midfielder", McLaren said today.

"I remember him bursting on to the scene as a sixteen or seventeen year old with Adelaide City and being pretty annoying for us at the time. I think he'll be a very useful addition to the team."

McLaren said he was generally pleased with the progress he has made in discussions with players about joining his squad. He said that two more players, who he did not name, were currently training with the club and being assessed. He also said that he and his assistant coach, Luciano Trani, were scouring the local leagues with a view to inviting about half a dozen players for trials in the near future.

On a less encouraging note, however, the Strikers will have to do without the services of representative defender Jon McKain who, after several attempts to secure an overseas contract, has joined Romanian club National Bucharest. There is also a strong possibility

that two other players from last season's squad, Steve Laybutt and Anthony Roche, will gain contracts with overseas clubs. According to some reports, Laybutt has been trialling impressively with Mouscron in Belgium, while Roche is also doing well with Fortuna Dusseldorf in Germany.

In other pre-season news at the Strikers, McLaren informed the BSSA that his team has three fixtures lined up over the coming month.



Louis Brain has been snapped by the Brisbane Strikers this season.

The Strikers will play Peninsula Power at Redcliffe at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 20 August, followed by games against touring Chinese club Shenzhen Jinlibao at Perry Park on Wednesday, 10 September (7.00 pm) and Toowoomba (in Toowoomba) on Saturday, 13 September.

\*Source — Brisbane Strikers Supporters Web-Site

# IRISH GIFT FOR OKON?

**S**occerroo captain Paul Okon believes Australia's friendly against the Republic of Ireland today is as important for him as it is for the national team.

Unwanted by his Leeds United club boss Peter Reid, Okon told *The Daily Telegraph*

that the game at Lansdowne Road in Dublin is a chance to show people exactly what he can do.

"This is a hugely important game for me," Okon said. "I'm out to prove that I'm still a decent footballer who has a lot to offer. I'm fired up for this one - it's a test of my ability, talent and determination. I'm in the shop window and I plan to make most of it."

With the transfer window closing at the end of the month, Okon is keen to get away from Elland Road, and is prepared to go just about anywhere for first-team football.

"There has been some interest from other clubs and I'm confident something will happen before the transfer deadline expires," Okon added.

"I'm not overly concerned whether I stay in England or not. I could go to Iceland for all I care, so long as the manager who takes me on knows who I am and is willing to back me."

"He must understand my strengths and weaknesses and have confidence in me."

Okon will come up against an Ireland midfield that could contain the likes of Everton's Lee Carsley, former Celtic star Colin Healy and Charlton's Matt Holland, and is looking forward to the challenge.

"Any match the Soccerroos play is important because we play so few. Beating England back in February provided a lot of hype for us. Now is our chance to build on that."



Soccerroo Paul Okon will be taking the friendly match against the Republic of Ireland very serious in terms of furthering his career on club level.

*"I'm not overly concerned whether I stay in England or not. I could go to Iceland for all I care, so long as the manager who takes me on knows who I am and is willing to back me."*

— Paul Okon

# I like Aussie attitude: Souness

**B**LACKBURN Rovers manager Graeme Souness, who recently signed Socceroo Brett Emerton, revealed his admiration for Australian sporting attitudes.

"I think the English cricketers know the Australians are pretty good at sport and have a wonderful attitude. I like it," he said.

Summing up the objectives for the north of England club that finished sixth last season Souness said: "There are four or five teams who can win the league – the rest of us are trying to remain in it."

Despite losing star Republic of Ireland winger Damien Duff to Chelsea and England international David Dunn to Birmingham City, he is convinced he has a stronger squad than last season.

And he has particular faith in Emerton, a \$5 million buy from Dutch club Feyenoord.

"We think we have done very good business in getting Brett for £2.2m, but the time for judgment is after he's played a year in the Premiership," he told the BBC's website.

Other new faces at Ewood Park are experienced Rangers captain Lorenzo Amoroso,

Millwall's Republic of Ireland international winger Steven Reid and the permanent signing of Slovakian defender Vratislav Gresko.

Despite qualifying for the UEFA Cup Souness, who guided them to the 2002 League Cup trophy, is refusing to get carried away ahead of Saturday's season-opener at home against Premiership newcomers Wolves.

"We are without two of our biggest flair players after losing Damien Duff and David Dunn, but I think overall we are stronger," said the former Liverpool, Rangers and Galatasaray manager.

"But that doesn't mean we'll finish above sixth. All the major players finished above us last season and realistically we can't get into that group."

His target is to end the season with at least 40 points.

"This will generally mean survival, and after that you try to get more points than you got the season before."

He added: "Getting into Europe didn't affect our thinking in the transfer market at all."

"We knew for a long time we were making three changes, with Keith Gillespie, Henning Berg and Stig Bjornebye going, and we are happy with our (northern) summer's business."

He wants to see his attack force of former Manchester United team-mates Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke harvesting more goals this year.

"Last season was their worst return in the Premier League since they have been playing in it."

"I'm also looking for improvement from our younger players. I've got a local boy called Paul Gallagher who we have hopes for."

"And James McEveley showed last year he can handle playing in the Premier League so we will look to get him in when we think it is right."

"We have a nice mixture but it is going to be a hard season." As far as the title race goes he is looking no further than last year's champions.

"Manchester United again for me, but there is still Arsenal and Chelsea will also be a lot stronger for their signings, so don't rule them out."



**Graeme Souness: Blackburn Gaffer has praised the Aussie attitudes of Lucas Neill and Brett Emerton.**

# New bid to settle Oceania row

**M**R TREVOR Mallard, the New Zealand Minister of Sport, has been called in to mediate as the Oceania Football Confederation stands on the brink of civil war.

Eight island nations have called for the resignation of OFC president Basil Scarsella and FIFA executive member Ahongalu Fusimalohi as the fallout from FIFA's recent backflip on direct World Cup entry for Oceania threatens to boil over.

A motion of no confidence will be tabled at a mooted extraordinary congress meeting in Auckland on September 6.

Scarsella, elected until 2006, has indicated he will stand down if that is the wish of the majority of Oceania's 11 member nations.

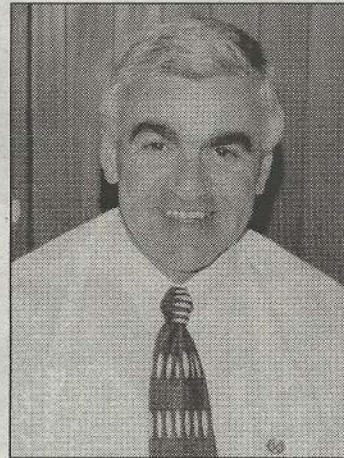
But the Dominion Post reported that FIFA president Sepp Blatter is understood to be behind a high-powered campaign to keep Scarsella in power.

New Zealand Soccer chief executive Bill MacGowan is monitoring developments with growing concern for the confederation's reputation.

Mallard has been approached to help quell the volatile situation.

"This is a very serious political situation, especially when the eyes of the

football world are watching one of the seven confederations carrying on like this... it's all muddled, dirty, horrible," MacGowan said yesterday.



**Basil Scarsella is under fire by eight OFC Nations and has been asked to step down as OFC President.**

"We're concerned. We want a stable Oceania and we don't think rolling the president is showing stability."

Asked if that meant NZS supported Scarsella, MacGowan said: "We're for stability. We're not saying he's 10 out of 10. But the Oceania executive should be concerned with issues like direct World

Cup entry to show the world of football stability and togetherness."

Samoa's Tautulu Roebuck, the vice-president, would replace Scarsella on a temporary basis until next year's presidential elections if the disenchanted island delegates get their way.

But it is understood the extraordinary congress meeting may be unconstitutional while Blatter and Soccer Australia are reportedly fighting to swing votes back in Scarsella's favour.

With the financial health of many of the island nations heavily reliant on FIFA funding, Blatter's intervention will be critical.

Australia Foreign Minister Alexander Downer is expected to raise the issue with island nation government representatives during this week's Pacific Island Forum in Auckland.

Scarsella denied a series of allegations made by Vanuatu Football Federation president Johnny Tinsley Lulu.

Lulu has alleged that Oceania paid Scarsella \$US88,000 (\$134,000) in accumulated allowances in return for his resignation and is angry the Australian now refuses to go.

Scarsella confirmed that he had taken a payment to which he was "entitled" to last week.

# Kewell can be 'next Zidane'

**W**ILL Liverpool's capture of Socceroo Harry Kewell be enough to carry the team that dominated English football in the 1980s to their first league title in 13 years?

That is the question at Anfield, where former Leeds star Kewell will link up with Michael Owen in an attacking partnership that should give Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy or Arsenal's Thierry Henry a run for their money.

Manager Gerard Houllier is convinced last season's Christmas-time slump, which destroyed any chance of the title, was a blip from which his players have learned.

But the economics of the English Premiership dictate that if Liverpool fail once again to qualify for the lucrative European Champions League, Houllier could be out of a job.

The Frenchman is pinning much on Kewell who looks the bargain of the close season, and Houllier has even compared him with France and Real Madrid superstar Zinedine Zidane.

"I am not going to put too much pressure on him, but I think he is 24, and he is leaving Leeds at the same age Zinedine Zidane left Bordeaux for Juventus."

"At the time, nobody knew so much about Zidane and I think Harry has some similar qualities."

"He is not at that level yet, but Zidane is 30 and I think he can be that sort of player, a player who can be a supporting midfielder player to the strikers or sometimes even off the striker," Houllier told The Observer newspaper.

Kewell became a Liverpool fan as a boy by following their matches on TV in Australia and knows that expectations will be enormous after his controversial move from Leeds.

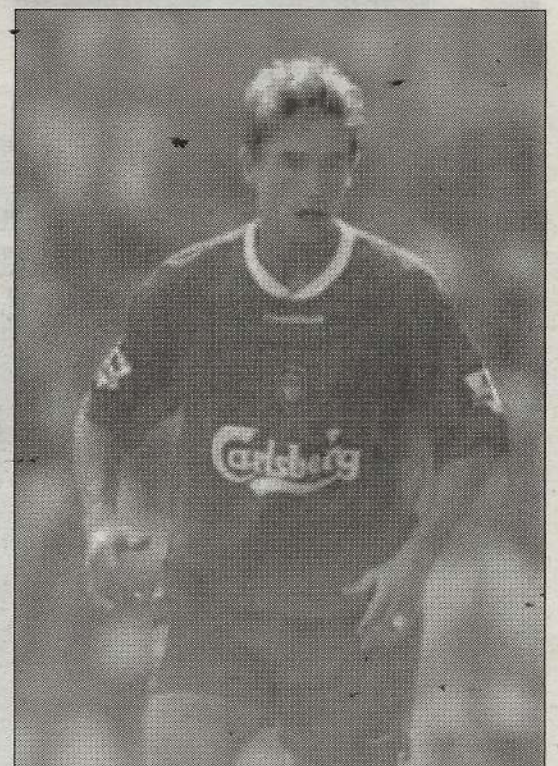
"I know I've got to do a job out there and that is what I am here to do, but Liverpool's history means there is a lot to live up to," he said.

But the striker underlined he would not be happy settling for the UEFA Cup football that Liverpool must play this season after the four-time European champions missed out on the continent's top competition – the Australian having reached the last four with Leeds.

"There are so many things I want to win and I haven't won any of them so far. I've achieved nothing, I've won nothing, and that's why I am here."

Add in the in-form Emile Heskey and Czech striker Milan Baros and fireworks up front seem guaranteed, but Liverpool's season could hinge on the fitness of central defensive partnership Sami Hyypia and Stephane Henchoz.

Reports that Houllier is seeking to bolster the rearguard by attempting to sign Valencia's rugged Argentine centre-back Roberto Ayala have been denied by the club, with the manag-



**Harry Kewell: Destined for success at Liverpool.**

er insisting Croatian midfielder Igor Biscan is being groomed as a central defender instead.

Republic of Ireland international Steve Finnan will push Jamie Carragher for selection in defence after joining from Fulham, but the suspicion remains that another defender could be on the Anfield shopping list.

In a bitter twist of irony Liverpool start their Premiership campaign by facing Chelsea, the team that defeated them on the final day of last season, condemning them to fifth place and grabbing the last Champions League place.

That defeat was worth an estimated £15m (\$40m), a sum which seems peanuts to the London club since their takeover by Russian oil billionaire Roman Abramovich, prompting a £90m spending spree on new players for the London club.

Liverpool cannot compete with that, but Houllier has seen enough to give him a taste for the new campaign.

"After last season I could not wait for the new one. It has made me hungrier," he said.

# Pompey Tempt Bosnich

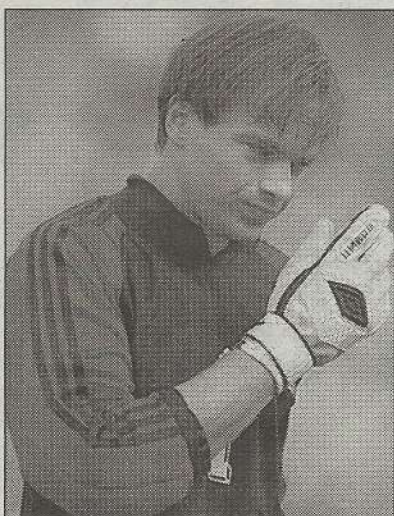
**B**anned former Socceroo goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has been given the chance to revive his career with Portsmouth.

The 31-year-old is unavailable until September as he completes a nine-month worldwide suspension for testing positive to cocaine last November, but while many had expected the latest indiscretion to be the end of his career, Portsmouth boss Harry Redknapp may throw him a lifeline.

"It's sort of difficult, but Mark's back in touch with me and I said he can come and train with us," Redknapp told The Advertiser after the pair held discussions on Tuesday.

"We'll see if we can get the boy fit and see if we can help get his life back on track. Can he get a place in our squad? Who knows? I just want to help the kid. Everybody has made mistakes in life so why not give him a chance and see what he can do?"

Bosnich has launched several appeals since his dismissal from Chelsea and against the English Football Association's ban, and



**Mark Bosnich could be playing under the posts for Portsmouth.**

has another still to be heard, but he faces the very real possibility that his sentence could in fact be extended if he goes ahead.

# New Stallions Arrive At Marconi

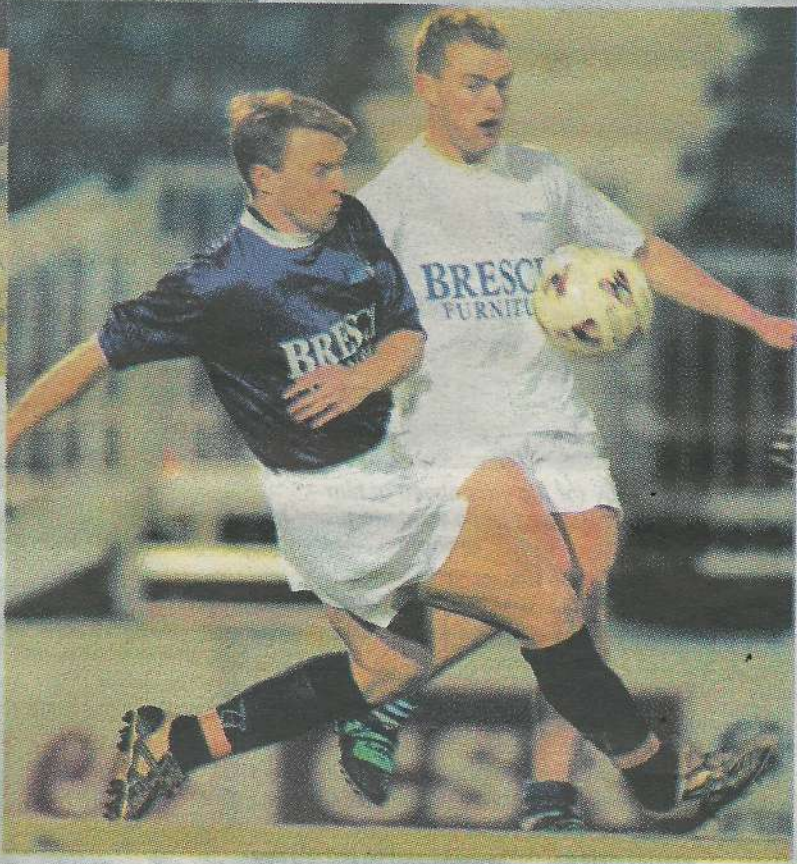
New Stallions Arrive At Marconi New Stallions Arrive At Marconi



Images by Carlos Furtado

# Arrive At Marconi

New Stallions Arrive At Marconi



# from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis



## ROOS FACE THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

It's been close to six months since Frank Farina's Australian squad has played a match together and today encompasses a new challenge for the green and gold side.

Only a month after being told that direct qualification towards the 2006 World Cup in Germany was a mere myth, the Roo squad will use forthcoming matches as practice sessions before the World Cup qualifiers.

Facing the Aussies today will be the Republic of Ireland, a team that pretty much needs no introduction.

Ireland are currently running second in the Euro 2004 qualifiers, two points behind leaders Switzerland.

Coach Brian Kerr has assembled a strong squad with the likes of Given, O'Shea, Carr, Breen, Harte, Dunne, Finnan, Carsley, Holland, Kinsella, Kilbane, Quinn, Duff, Keane and Morrison to name a few.

Kerr stated to the Irish press that the match against the Australians will prove to be a tough task but a good one before their Euro 2004 match on the 6th of September against the Russians.



A strong Irish line-up is expected to be fielded against the Roos.

Farina's squad will be without inspirational defender Craig Moore, but stars Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Lucas Neill, Vince Grella, Marco Bresciano and Brett Emerton will be amongst a very strong and competitive squad.

Good news filtered through last week for the Australians was that of another friendly match that has been officially organized against the Jamaicans on the 7th of September.

Two good matches have highlighted the seriousness Farina has for their lead-up matches in regards to the World Cup qualifiers coming soon.

A strong Australian contingent is said to be making its way to Dublin to watch the game and the fans are hoping for a repeat of what happened last February when the Aussie's hit England for three at Upton Park.

## BURNLEY TO HOST OZ V ENGLAND CLASH

The Matildas are set to play a friendly match against the English on the 4th of September at Turf Moor - Burnley's home ground.

"We are delighted the FA has chosen Turf Moor as the venue to host the England women's fixture against Australia," said Burnley chairman Barry Kilby.

"Women's football is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK and we are delighted Burnley Football Club can play its part in the progress of the game.

"The England women's team can be sure the supporters of

Burnley Football Club will turn out to support them."

## CAHILL DELIGHTED ABOUT SOCCEROO CALL-UP

Millwall's Australian star Timmy Cahill last week expressed his delight after FIFA lifted the ban on the star and allowed the midfielder to represent the Socceroos in future International matches.

Although only training with the Socceroo squad for



Tim Cahill shown in his Millwall colours - but for how long?

this week's clash against the Republic of Ireland, Cahill stated his satisfaction in the call-up.

"If I'm being selected it's an honour for the club and my value goes up.

"There are a lot of pluses and minuses for Millwall because they may lose me for some games but that is part and parcel of football. "I think they will see the pluses of it all. It's an unbelievable chance."

Cahill was caught in a dispute not so long ago after representing Samoa some years back during a youth tournament as a fourteen-year-old.

This surely is Australia's gain as Cahill is touted as being one of the most exciting prospects in the English First Division.

The talented midfielder also writes a column in a Millwall fan-site called <http://www.titsfannyandmillwall.co.uk>, something that readers should surely check out.

The 23-year-old has been linked in the past with moves to Aston Villa, Tottenham Hotspur and Birmingham City and is sure to make a move in the not too distant future sources stated to ABSW.

Having made well over 200 appearances and scored over 50 goals for his club, Australia is again lucky that this youngster holds an Australian passport once more!

## BOJIC TO PROVE CRITICS WRONG

It's been a long time coming but former U17 Joeys defender Predrag Bojic has one aim this season in this years National League - to prove his critics wrong.

The Wollongong born star was part of the Parramatta Power set-up for the past couple of seasons but unfortunately did not get a sniff in the first team side.

After starting last season in pre-season trials with Nick Theo's first team squad, Bojic lost his place and took part in the club's youth side for the majority of the year.



Ready for the year ahead of him - youngster Predrag Bojic wants to prove his critics wrong!

Frustration hit the former NSWIS graduate however this year, the tides have turned and Pedge is hoping that his fortunes will change for the better with his new club Sydney Olympic.

Olympic coach Peter Papanikitas realized that Bojic had enormous potential during the trial period and snapped up the defender with no hesitation.

Known for being a tough tackler and being able to hold his position in the back-line, a new position could beckon for the former Power player.

Playing right midfielder could well be Pedge's new spot, a change the youngster does not mind as long as he is playing first team football.

Having had trials a few years back with English side Ipswich, Bojic is hoping that a good season could once again spark interest overseas.

## STRIKERS SAY NO TO POWER

The Brisbane Strikers last week put off a proposed friendly match with National League favourites to take out this year's competition Parramatta Power.

The Gold Coast was set to be the venue where the Power is currently enjoying a pre-season hit-out with reports that the players have been put through high quality running and fitness programs.

Reasons for the cancellation of the match was the fact that the Strikers new coaching staff, player/manager Stuart McLaren and Assistant-Coach Luciano Trani felt as though their squad was not ready to take part in a match as yet.

## CREWS TO SKIPPER WOLVES?

Unofficial news filtered through ABSW's offices last week about the acquisition of Andrew Crews' appointment as captain for the Wollongong Wolves this season.

Stuart Young, the Wolves skipper for the past few seasons could well step down the captain's armband but nothing official has been stated as of yet from the Wolves office.

John Turner has been busy recruiting players for the new year with the signings of dual-National Youth League player of the year John Majurovski, former Parramatta Eagles star Daniel Cummins, ex-National League star Vlado Zoric and Nahuel Arrarte.

## WOLVES FAN IN BASEL

Taken from the official Wollongong Wolves web site, a photo of a fan holding a Wollongong Wolves symbol with Swiss side FC Basel's colours with the words 'Aussie Power' was something that caught the attention of this editor.



The dedicated Wollongong Wolves fan present at every FC Basel home-match.

## photooftheweek



The Sierra Leone players come through customs at the Helsinki airport. The last squad to arrive, they round out the 16-team field for the FIFA U-17 World

Championship Finland 2003. The team was greeted warmly by a group of Sierra Leoneans currently living in various parts of Finland.

## NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE MATCH OF THE ROUND

# SYDNEY CS SLIP AT FINAL HURDLE!

	<b>AC United</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Sydney Crescent Star</b>	<b>1</b>

by Greg Stock

The door to the Winter Super League Premiership trophy has been thrown open to Fraser Park after league leaders Crescent Star were beaten 2-1 by AC United at Abruzzi Field on Sunday.

unlikely victory against one of the league genuine heavyweights.

Adopting a physical approach to the match, AC started the game on the best footing when Vincenzo Sansone broke free down the right hand side to bury a shot from a tight angle. Maytham Abdal manufactured a brilliant pass from wide

rated opponents, AC kept harassing and tackling hard, clearly unsettling Crescent Star's build-up play.

"Our plan was to press them in the midfield and to make sure they didn't have any opportunity to get into our penalty box and shoot" said AC United coach Nick Porecca.

"We did our homework and knew that if we played a bustling style of game we could upset them and the boys did an outstanding job to see that through to the letter."

Robbie Grubba and the Giometti brothers, Rick and Chris, were the real heroes, getting through a mountain of work as they laid siege to Balabanel, Huseyin Bayhan and Hussein Jomaa. Marking up man for man in defence, they didn't allow Crescent Star an opportunity to shoot from inside the AC penalty box. The visitors obliged by chancing their arm from distance, unable to break down the tough AC backline.

The only time the home side faltered was on the hour mark when Balabanel was able to slip in at the back post unmarked, and nod home a cross from Hulusi Orhan, wide on the right. This goal celebration brought Balabanel undone with a second yellow card.

Sydney CS goalkeeper Steve Tolios pulled out a heroic save to deny Chris Giometti from the penalty spot ten minutes later. Tayfun Devrimol had brought down Chris Giometti just inside the penalty box, giving Pearce no option but to point to the spot.



The winning goal came seven minutes from time, when Rick Giometti was able to put away a rebound from a Johnny Ghiso free kick that hit the cross bar.

"The boys did exceptionally well today and I am very proud for the way they put their bodies on the line and played a solid ninety minutes," said Porecca.

"Crescent Star are an exceptionally hard side to beat and full credit to them for the way in which they came at us, even with ten men. But this win will give us a lot of confidence going into the semi-finals and knowing we can match it with the very best sides in the league."

Having led the competition since round one Crescent Star now face the real possibility of losing the premiership trophy to Fraser Park in the final match. In the 'return leg' at Lidcombe Oval this Sunday, a win will guarantee Crescent Star the Premiership trophy, a draw or loss enough to keep the door open for second-placed Fraser Park Dragons, prowling a point behind.

### NSW FIRST DIVISION

## Northern Tigers Crowned Premiers

with Paul Goodwin

The First Division regular season reached a nail-biting conclusion this weekend.

Being the final round, all of the games were staged on Sunday and there were some very anxious supporters hanging around waiting for other results to come in.

The clashes that determined the Premiership took place in Wollongong and Hornsby, and the mobile phones rang hot between these far-flung soccer fields.

Down in the 'Gong, Hurstville ZSC were well aware that, no matter how many goals they were ahead of Wollongong United, it was the team's draw at Bathurst a few weeks earlier that would come back to haunt them, if league leaders Northern Tigers leaders did indeed beat Bathurst at home.

Richard Plesa got things going early for ZSC with a 35-yard pile driver and the experienced defender added a second in the 40th, after Joe Badrov had made it 2-0 in the 37th.

Luke Glavas chimed in with two as well, either side of half time, to complete a solid against the unpredictable Wollongong side. But it was to prove all in vain, this 5-0 win off the south coast.

Meanwhile, there had been some anxious moments for Northern Tigers coach, Fred Mesiti and his crew, up at Parklands Oval, where Bathurst clawed their way back to be only 2-1 down at half time.

That meant the home team had to dig deep to preserve their slender lead.

Matt Hunter had given the Tigers the lead in the 11th and Mount Kuring-gai's own Scott Ryan increased that slender early lead to 2-0 in the 33rd, before David Baillie pulled one back for Bathurst just seconds before the break.

The second half saw the Tigers still well on top but unable to hit that extra goal to make the game completely safe, though at the finish they, had hung on anyway to win 2-1 and take the title on their own turf.

The victory brings back memories of earlier triumphs by Ku-ring-gai and later North Shore United, who also won the corresponding division many times in the 70s and late 80s.

Roll on the semi-finals!



Crescent Star midfielder Terry Atsas lays off a through ball

In a controversial end to a very fiery contest referee Craig Pearce had to be escorted from the field by club marshals as the Crescent Star fans vented their anger at the send-off of star player Tanju Balabanel midway through the second half.

Balabanel, booked early in the second half for a crude challenge on AC defender Robbie Grubba, was dismissed following celebrations with his team-mates after scoring the equaliser. Referee Craig Pearce in no doubt that the leagues leading scorer was guilty of a yellow card offence and ordered him for an early shower.

That incident and a penalty kick awarded to AC United ten minutes later brought the away fans to boiling point, their emotions spilling over after the final whistle as they moved around to the players race to make their feelings known to Pearce.

Despite the controversy, the real talking point was the way AC United stuck to their game plan and etched out an

on the left that enabled Sansone to slip in behind Askin Oygur and Unal Ogmen to beat off the challengers with speed.

Conceding the greater share of possession and field position to their higher-

**AC UNITED:** Claudio Fernandez, Robbie Grubba, Michael McGovern (Domenic Oliverio 32'), Robert Sacco, Chris Giometti, Rick Giometti, Vincenzo Sansone, Johnny Ghiso, Maytham Abdal (Kris Holbrook 77'), Ray Mandic (Adrian Zambo 50').  
Coach: Nick Porecca.

**SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR:** Steve Tolios, Evangelos Petratos, Unal Ogmen (Phil Marzec 72'), Askin Oygur, Tayfun Devrimol, Terry Atsas, Yavus Ekinli, Tanju Balabanel, Hulusi Orhan (Volkan Kir 77'), Huseyin Bayhan (Joe Bruni 65'), Hussein Jomaa.  
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak.

**Yellow Cards:** R. Giometti 7', Bayhan 52', Balabanel 48', 60', Devrimol 72', Jomaa 77', Oygur 85'.

**Red Card:** Balabanel 60'.

**Referee:** Craig Pearce  
**Assistant Referees:** Greg Leadbeater and Richard Baker



Vincenzo Sansone (left) is congratulated by team-mates after he scored AC United's opening goal

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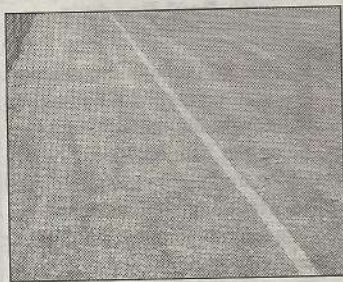
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## NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

### FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



#### Premier Recruitment

Most of the Premier League clubs have already started their recruitment for season 2003/4, with a number of coaches being seen at some Winter Super League games in recent weeks. Canterbury's Greg Woodhouse, Penrith Panthers' Tony Rasmussen and Blacktown City's Brian Brown have been the most active, with all three looking to make sizable additions to their respective teams.

Bankstown City are the big movers this week rumored to have signed former Fairfield Bulls strike pair of Marc Hoenselaars and Matthew Borg while Penrith have recruited ex Eagles striker Adam Anderson.

St. George have signed four key youngsters from last year with goal-keeper Phil Weston, Nick Tavouktsis, George and Kosta Lagoudakis all putting pen to paper on two year deals. With a number of National League clubs still trialing players, the recruiting spotlight is expected to get a little more intense over the next few weeks.

#### St. George's European Experiment

St. George have announced their coaching line-up for the new season with a couple of new faces to go along with the old. Manny Spanoudakis returns for his third season with the club. He will be assisted by former Soccerroo Aytek Genc. In the Under-20's Spiro Hantzis and Zoran Ilic will take over with Danny Silvestri and Matthew Riberovski as the team managers for first and second grade respectively.

"Our intention is to model the technical set up based on the European Manager/Coach scenario," said Spanoudakis. "It is a continuation of the work initiated last year and reinforces our stated objective of rebuilding the club so that it can once again hold the credible status it once did in Australian football."

#### Vince Steps Back Down

Stanmore Hawks coach Vince Estavilio was a noted absentee from his sides' 1-0 win over Dulwich Hill on Sunday. According to a club spokesman, Estavilio has returned to his role as youth coach with the juniors to be replaced by a working party of three. "Vince (Estavilio) has decided he wants to return to the youth and we have Ross Anton, Mavros and Tony Pantelli looking after the three grades for the next two weeks." Estavilio failed to win a game with the Hawks

senior side after he replaced Peter Papinakitis midway through the season, his record standing at three draws and four losses from seven games.

#### Flea Hangs Up Boots For Last Time

After a long and distinguished fifteen-year career playing state league football, Hurstville City Minotaurs defender Peter Papoythis has finally decided to hang up his boots for good.

Since being appointed as the Assistant Coach to Peter Papinakitis at Sydney Olympic, Papoythis has played just a couple of games for his friend and coach Peter 'The General' Sarikakis, with the pressures of coaching and running a café in Sydney's eastern suburbs too great.

"I would have loved to have played a few more games but my commitments with work and at Sydney Olympic have clashed," said Papoythis. In a career which started in the mid 1980's with Canterbury-Marrickville and included a stint at National league level with Melbourne Zebras, the man the affectionately called 'flea' has achieved just about every honour there is in the game, and is now looking to make a successful transition to coaching. "Being a coach has always interested me and I am very grateful for the opportunity to be involved at Olympic" said Papoythis.

"I know I am not getting younger and after a tough match it's always difficult to get up the morning after, so I guess there is no real objection to me retiring and moving onto a new challenge." Minotaurs coach Peter 'The General' Sarikakis praised Papoythis' efforts. "He has been a top line player for years and the game will be poorer for his loss, but everyone knows you can't play forever and I'll look forward to seeing him on the coach's bench in the years to come."

#### Super Leaguers On Trial

A couple of unlikely Super League players have found their way to the cusp of earning themselves National League contracts. Fraser Park striker Liam Austin appears close to landing a contract at Wollongong Wolves, while Hurstville City defender Steve Kalamvokis has been impressive at Sydney Olympic. Watch this space.



Up close and personal at the Womens Super League finals over the weekend

## Macarthur Go Down Fighting

**H**ajduk Wanderers secured their place in the top five and with it a chance to finish fourth, following their comprehensive 3-0 win over Macarthur Rams at Hajduk Stadium on Sunday.

Macarthur came out firing and put a lot of pressure on the home side from the start, forcing a few corners early in the game.

In the fourth minute Macarthur's Dwayne Pearson hit a ball well from the right wing and Wanderers' keeper Daniel Schwarzer had to stretch all the way to save and push the ball away for a corner. From that corner Paul Wither then missed with a free header.

Macarthur got punished for their two early misses as the Wanderers then began to get back into the game and settled down well.

In the 19th, Chris Camilleri took the ball down the left, but his shot went begging as it sailed past Peter Munsie, with no one at home to tap in.

A minute later Pearson gave a back pass to Munsie and, as he cleared the ball, it went straight to Navid Varess, who then made no mistake and tapped the ball into the back of the gaping net.

In the 33rd Varess came close to scoring his second when he fired a shot just

inside the 18 yard box which was cleared by Peter Walker as it appeared to be going over the line.

Just before half time Tim Gledhill did well to win the ball and found Varess free on the left.

As Varess shaped to beat Munsie his shot was once again cleared off the line, this time by Khan Uysen.

In the second half the Wanderers again took control and in the 58th Hajduk went two up, when Schwarzer hit a long ball which Tim Gledhill did well to control before going one-on-one with Munsie and then slotting home nicely.

Navid Varess could have almost made it 3-0, in the 65th, when he volleyed the ball from just outside the 18 yard box, but his shot went just past the upright with the keeper well beaten.

In the 70th Macarthur came close to pulling one back when Steve Green was unmarked in the six-yard box, but his shot also went wide.

The third goal came in the 73rd when the youngster Chris Camilleri showed some clever footwork to dribble the ball into the eighteen-yard box. As he shaped to shoot, the ball was blocked by Peter Walker, but Tim Gledhill was there waiting to tap the ball into an empty net.

In the 76th, with Macarthur continuing

to battle away, Adam Wither was very unlucky when his long shot hit the top corner of the cross bar.

Just before full time Ante Mrdjen gave a perfect cross to Camilleri and his shot from the six-yard box hit Rams keeper Munsie's head.

That was the end of the action and the end of the home season for Hajduk, who wound it all up in very convincing fashion.

Macarthur remain anchored at the bottom of the ladder and must now regroup, but their fighting qualities will always be respected after another tough season.

**Hajduk Wanderers:** Daniel Schwarzer, Robert Kuman, Anthony Hartshorn, Ryan Manente, Mark Abi Arrage (C), Eddie Wong, Paul Crisp, Todd Brodie (Ante Mrdjen 59), Navid Varess (Steven Scotti 68), Tim Gledhill (Peter Farac 74), Chris Camilleri  
Subs not used: Phillip Zabaks (RGK), and Trent Worrall  
Coach: Tommy McCulloch

**Macarthur Rams:** Peter Munsie, Khan Uysen, Peter Walker, Christian Miranda, Gary Seymour, Paul Wither, Andrew Borg, Adam Wither, Matthew Toogood, Steve Green, Dwayne Pearson (Daniel Ockers 36)  
Subs not used: Dean Bradley, Craig Cooley, Aidan Matthews and Tim Parker  
Coach: Washington Gonzales

Referee: Jonathan Streater  
Assistant Referees: Sunny Afshar and John Armstrong

## Sharks Gutted by Portelli

by Paul Goodwin

**M**agdala Park proved to be a Waterloo for Sutherland on Sunday, as the Gunners' never say die attitude brought the Sharks' undone in the final minutes of an absorbing encounter.

With only pride to play for, Ryde City Gunners took on the visitors in front of a small but vocal crowd, intent on causing an upset.

And an upset it was. With the game all but lost, up popped striker Robbie Portelli to snare two decisive goals in the space of two minutes and send the Sharks back to Seymour Shaw a gutted outfit.

Though Ryde had the early chances, caused in part by an inexplicably poor performance from Sharks custodian Zlatko Josevski, it was Sutherland who appeared the more threatening of the two sides when, anywhere near the Gunners' goal.

Were it not for the safe hands of new 'keeper Chris Sharpe, Ryde could well have been two or three goals down at the break. In the 11th minute, a snap shot from Jason Connolly was touched clear and again only a fingertip deflection by Sharpe denied Sutherland's Paul Bourke an opening goal.

Seven minutes later local junior Monte Pfrengle caught a flick from Connolly on the fly and only Sharpe's reflex action denied the striker. Sharpe did well to deny further efforts from Iain McDonald and Derek Poirer as the half wore on.

The Sutherland goal, when it came in

the 38th minute, was thoroughly deserved. Midfielder Pfrengle slalomed through a mesmerised Gunners' defence only to see his shot blocked by Sharpe at the final hurdle. His save bounced clear to Macdonald who put the ball adroitly in the back of the net.

The resumption saw a replica of the first half, with the Sharks continuing their onslaught on the Ryde goal. But, as the half wore on, play became more even and both sides saw chances created and lost. First, Paul Nero for Ryde got to a ball on the by-line, in the 65th minute, where it was scrambled clear by the Sharks. Then, at the other end, Garth Moring snapped a shot at goal, missing narrowly.

Next, Portelli managed to squeeze into the Sharks' penalty area, was dispossessed from behind, appealed a disallowed penalty and then saw Moring chest down a clearance at the other end and fire at goal, bringing out the best in Sharpe once again.

Entertaining stuff - but it was the final two minutes that brought the small crowd to its feet.

With the game all but won by the visitors, Ryde delivered one last throw of the dice and Portelli fired home a sweetly struck volley in the 86th minute, which Josevski could only deflect into his own net as it rocketed off the bar.

Two minutes later it was Portelli again. This time a cross from Andy Kane found Portelli unmarked on the far post and he pinched the winner for a delirious Gunners' brigade.

Some after match comments displayed coaches' emotions poignantly.



Ryde City's Paul Nero

The Gunners' Chris Cowley expressed his pride in the team's never give up attitude. "We worked hard and got something out of it - play basic football; work hard and it comes good!"

The Sharks' Vic Ellul said it all in one word. "Gutted! So many chances! Take nothing away from Ryde - and especially their keeper. "If you don't score - especially with the chances we had today - you lose the game. It came back and bit us."

**Ryde City:** Chris Sharpe, Eddie Giraldo, Matt Peatey, Simon Turner (C), Dave Provan (Erkan Elveren 70), Paul Nero, Nicola Sartini, Mark Williamson, Robbie Portelli, Damien Pisano, Simon Bloom (Andy Kane 67)  
Subs not used: Nick Apollis (RGK)  
Coach: Chris Cowley

**Sutherland Sharks:** Zlatko Josevski, Phil Badalato (Mark Lancaster 55), Matt Dihm (C), Garth Moring, Paul Bourke, Paul Candelari, Adam Mammolli, Monte Pfrengle, Jason Connolly, Iain Macdonald, Derek Poirer  
Sub not used: Adam Kurtz (RGK)  
Coach: Vic Ellul  
Referee: Greg Leverton  
Assistant Referees: Kim Griffiths and Mark Nemorin  
Yellow Cards: Ryde City: Nil; Sutherland Sharks: Garth Moring 48



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## NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

# FIGHTBACK KEEPS DRAGONS IN THE HUNT



### Fraser Park Dragons

2



### Sydney University

1

By Paul Goodwin

Going into the match without the influential Michael Kladis, Liam Austin, Martin Bourke and Clint Mayberry, Fraser Park were already under strength before they met the very determined Sydney University side at Kogarah Jubilee Oval.

The students were without ace marksman Tim Wilson and lost Pat Darvill soon after the break, but they made a decent game of it anyway and gave the title challengers a real fright before eventually going down 2-1, thanks to a brilliantly executed 83rd-minute winner from Tony Faria.

Either side could have won this one, a game that hung in the balance for the full ninety minutes, with both keepers being kept busy throughout.

Sydney Uni came to win and Fraser needed maximum points too, so all the ingredients were there for a superb contest.

The immaculate playing surface also lent the match a perfect stage for a quality offering and that is exactly what we were served up.

It was a game of many goal-scoring chances, but both sides had little luck early on.

Fraser's Tony Faria, set free on the left by Bill Petrovski, burst into the box, but, from a tight angle, he clipped his shot just over the bar, in the ninth minute.

At the other end, Scott Wells and Fraser keeper Steve Angelov combined to deprive the alert Rob Smithies of a crack at goal in the 15th, when he was already inside the six-yard box.

Manny Papageorgiou skipped past Adam Snyder, on the left, a minute later at the other end, but defenders were able to scramble the ball to safety.

Then, with Fraser still ruing their misfortune, former Dragons player Pat Darvill made a surging run through the middle, beat three Fraser Park defenders and then the advancing Angelov, before sliding the ball into a vacant net in the 20th.

It was a blow to Fraser's hopes of winning the game and pushing competition leaders Sydney Crescent Star all the way.

It took was after that before the home side re-gathered their momentum.

In the 33rd Fraser had a let-off, thanks to an assistant's flag, when Josh Heath raced onto a superb Daisuke Nakayama through ball only to be disappointed as the pass had been delayed a moment too long to avoid the offside decision.

Heath then drove another effort just wide in the 38th, as Fraser was forced to defend deep, rather than seek an early equaliser.

Shortly after, Fraser had a good chance to score, Papageorgiou crossing from the right for Faria at the far post, whose header back across the face of goal for Mark Guerrero looked to set up the young striker for the perfect chance, but the Uni defence closed the Fraser man down brilliantly.

Fraser lifted at the start of the second half with midfielder Greg Collins prominent.

His 22-yard free kick in the 48th was headed wide by Uni's Gordon Boyd. Fraser then forced a series of corners and the crowd sensed the locals might at last be on the verge of a fightback.

So it proved, with Petrovski's clever

52nd minute flag-kick finding the near post, where Guerrero arrived with a well-timed run to power home a header at close range.

Fraser looked set to take the lead a few minutes later, when Papageorgiou picked up a fine through pass from Petrovski, only to come down on the edge of the box under the desperate challenge of Peter Feehan, who escaped with just a caution.

The Uni boys seemed to grow another leg after this let-off and it looked as if they might have been the side to go on and win this one, as the Fraser players once again found themselves pinned in their own half for the next passage of play.

A great reflex save from Angelov deprived Uni substitute Andy Christie the chance of a heroic winner in the 65th. On the break and facing only the keeper Christie rifled in a great volley, but Angelov made it look easy and all that was needed then was for the ball to be scrambled, clear and Fraser had yet another life.

They made full use of this to go on and score the winner themselves in the 83rd minute.

A minute before they did get the goal that counted Archie Markopoulos had played Greg Collins through and the latter's powerful shot had come back off the crossbar, only for the loose ball to be driven wide by Guerrero.

Collins then made amends for what was the miss of the game, by threading a wonderful ball through for Faria on the left.

The lanky wingman shrugged aside two tough tackles to face the keeper and then finish with great poise for the ultimate winner.



Fraser Park's Greg Collins had a 22-yard free-kick headed wide at the beginning of the second half

mate winner.

Not long after this, another Collins effort was beaten away by keeper Matt Crow, who had another strong game. But the clock eventually beat the students, who finished full of running and contributed to a tremendous late season contest. Both sides can hold their heads high after this demonstration of attacking and committed football and will meet again eagerly this coming weekend, on campus.

Plenty of homework for coaches, Ian Gillan and Stewart Porter, before that return clash - one that should pull in the crowd, for a study of contrasting styles, in a game that means so much to both outfits. For Fraser, perhaps, a late title success and for Uni a best-ever finish under highly popular mentor Porter.

**FRASER PARK DRAGONS:** Steve Angelov, Daniel Cunningham, Alex Leris, Scott Wells (C), Ben Mailer (73), Greg Collins, David O'Han, Bill Petrovski (Dom Arcella 78), Achilles Markopoulos, Tony Faria, Manny Papageorgiou (David Kuda 90), Mark Guerrero  
Subs not used: Daniel Farias (RGK), Coach: Ian Gillan

**SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SC:** Matt Crow, Luke Gray (David Gill 48), Adam Snyder, Peter Feehan, Daniel Borg, Pat Darvill (Andy Christie 55), Daisuke Nakayama, Gordon Boyd, Jeremy Brown, Josh Heath (Tyrone Lara 58), Rob Smithies (C)  
Subs not used: George Bouroumpoulos (RGK), Coach: Stewart Porter

Referee: Kevin Humphreys  
Assistant Referees: Jason Blackwood and Daniel Dewhurst  
Yellow Cards: Fraser Park: Nil; Sydney University: Peter Feehan 55

## Thoroughbred Hurstville Trample MSC



George Lagoudakis started the rout with a 27th minute goal. George and brother Kosta are bound for St George next season

The Minotaurs moved into outright seventh on the competition table with the emphatic 5-1 destruction of struggling MSC Liverpool at the Rockdale-Illinden Sports Centre on Sunday.

Despite missing his three key imports in Peter Trajcevski, Peter Apolevski and Malcolm Bideau, the Minotaurs were far too good for MSC, who put in one of the worst ninety minutes of football they have produced all season.

"It was an utterly dis-

graceful performance," said depressed MSC Liverpool coach Paul Carter, who simply had no answers when quizzed about his sides' poor showing.

"We had a reasonably light week on the training paddock in the buildup to this game and we seemed to leave our minds in neutral when we took the field."

Down 1-0 at halftime to a George Lakoudakis strike, MSC did have a couple of reasonable-looking chances to level the scores.

Just prior to half-time Zarko Glavas had his goal disallowed for offside and, even at 2-0 down, a call for what seemed to some like a legitimate penalty was waved away by the referee after Anthony Kanaan and Sam Panagakis clashed.

But, like a good racehorse, once the

Minotaurs were in front they were never headed, going on a scoring spree early in the second half. George Kalogeras chiming in with two goals as he pushed his way forward from sweeper.

"I am very proud of the way the boys played today" said Minotaurs boss Peter Sarikakis. "We had a number of younger players stepping up today and they did an absolutely outstanding job."

"The General" singled out his two experienced guns, Tom Pontidas and George Kalogeras, for special mention.

"Their experience in helping the younger players played an essential part in the win and they were both head and shoulders above everyone else."

Spiro Kladis in his role at centre half also did well, while MSC were best served by promising young midfielder Chris Fallico.

## Hawks Win At Last

Stanmore recorded their first win for an eternity, downing Dulwich Hill 1-0 at Arlington Oval on Sunday.

Fortunate had utterly deserted their former coach Vince Estavilio, but he had stepped back down before this match to continue coaching the club's juniors.

A three-man panel is in charge of the side for the final two games, headed by Ross Anton, and it seems to have made a difference.

Neither side set the world on fire in this mid-table encounter. In the end, a 70th minutes strike from ex-Leichhardt junior Andrew Falas was enough to see the Hawks through for a three point haul at long last.

The rivalry will be renewed at the same venue next week, both teams seeking the important psychological boost of finishing the season with a win.

## NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE MATCH OF THE ROUND

# SYDNEY CS SLIP AT FINAL HURDLE!

 <b>AC United</b>	<b>2</b>
 <b>Sydney Crescent Star</b>	<b>1</b>

by Greg Stock

The door to the Winter Super League Premiership trophy has been thrown open to Fraser Park after league leaders Crescent Star were beaten 2-1 by AC United at Abruzzi Field on Sunday.



Crescent Star midfielder Terry Atsas lays off a through ball

In a controversial end to a very fiery contest referee Craig Pearce had to be escorted from the field by club marshals as the Crescent Star fans vented their anger at the send-off of star player Tanju Balabanel midway through the second half.

Balabanel, booked early in the second half for a crude challenge on AC defender Robbie Grubba, was dismissed following celebrations with his team-mates after scoring the equaliser. Referee Craig Pearce in no doubt that the league's leading scorer was guilty of a yellow card offence and ordered him for an early shower.

That incident and a penalty kick awarded to AC United ten minutes later brought the away fans to boiling point, their emotions spilling over after the final whistle as they moved around to the players race to make their feelings known to Pearce.

Despite the controversy, the real talking point was the way AC United stuck to their game plan and etched out an

unlikely victory against one of the league's genuine heavyweights.

Adopting a physical approach to the match, AC started the game on the best footing when Vincenzo Sansone broke free down the right hand side to bury a shot from a tight angle. Maytham Abdal manufactured a brilliant pass from wide

rated opponents, AC kept harassing and tackling hard, clearly unsettling Crescent Star's build-up play.

"Our plan was to press them in the midfield and to make sure they didn't have any opportunity to get into our penalty box and shoot" said AC United coach Nick Porecca.

"We did our homework and knew that if we played a bustling style of game we could upset them and the boys did an outstanding job to see that through to the letter."

Robbie Grubba and the Giometti brothers, Rick and Chris, were the real heroes, getting through a mountain of work as they laid siege to Balabanel, Huseyin Bayhan and Hussein Jomaa. Marking up man for man in defence, they didn't allow Crescent Star an opportunity to shoot from inside the AC penalty box. The visitors obliged by chancing their arm from distance, unable to break down the tough AC backline.

The only time the home side faltered was on the hour mark when Balabanel was able to slip in at the back post unmarked, and nod home a cross from Hulusi Orhan, wide on the right. This goal celebration brought Balabanel undone with a second yellow card.

Sydney CS goalkeeper Steve Tolios pulled out a heroic save to deny Chris Giometti from the penalty spot ten minutes later. Tayfun Devrimol had brought down Chris Giometti just inside the penalty box, giving Pearce no option but to point to the spot.



The winning goal came seven minutes from time, when Rick Giometti was able to put away a rebound from a Johnny Ghiso free kick that hit the cross bar.

"The boys did exceptionally well today and I am very proud for the way they put their bodies on the line and played a solid ninety minutes," said Porecca.

"Crescent Star are an exceptionally hard side to beat and full credit to them for the way in which they came at us, even with ten men. But this win will give us a lot of confidence going into the semi-finals and knowing we can match it with the very best sides in the league."

Having led the competition since round one Crescent Star now face the real possibility of losing the premiership trophy to Fraser Park in the final match. In the 'return leg' at Lidcombe Oval this Sunday, a win will guarantee Crescent Star the Premiership trophy, a draw or loss enough to keep the door open for second-placed Fraser Park Dragons, prowling a point behind.



Vincenzo Sansone (left) is congratulated by team-mates after he scored AC United's opening goal

**AC UNITED:** Claudio Fernandez, Robbie Grubba, Michael McGovern (Domenic Oliverio 32'), Robert Sacco, Chris Giometti, Rick Giometti, Vincenzo Sansone, Johnny Ghiso, Maytham Abdal (Kris Holbrook 77'), Ray Mandic (Adrian Zambo 50').  
Coach: Nick Porecca.

**SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR:** Steve Tolios, Evangelos Petralos, Unal Ogmen (Phil Marzac 72'), Askin Oygur, Tayfun Devrimol, Terry Atsas, Yavus Ekinci, Tanju Balabanel, Hulusi Orhan (Volkan Kir 77'), Huseyin Bayhan (Joe Bruni 65'), Hussein Jomaa.  
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak.

**Yellow Cards:** R. Giometti 7', Bayhan 52', Balabanel 48', 60', Devrimol 72', Jomaa 77', Oygur 85'.

**Red Card:** Balabanel 60'.

**Referee:** Craig Pearce  
**Assistant Referees:** Greg Leadbeater and Richard Baker

### NSW FIRST DIVISION

## Northern Tigers Crowned Premiers

with Paul Goodwin

The First Division regular season reached a nail-biting conclusion this weekend.

Being the final round, all of the games were staged on Sunday and there were some very anxious supporters hanging around waiting for other results to come in.

The clashes that determined the Premiership took place in Wollongong and Hornsby, and the mobile phones rang hot between these far-flung soccer fields.

Down in the 'Gong, Hurstville ZSC were well aware that, no matter how many goals they were ahead of Wollongong United, it was the team's draw at Bathurst a few weeks earlier that would come back to haunt them, if league leaders Northern Tigers leaders did indeed beat Bathurst at home.

Richard Plesa got things going early for ZSC with a 35-yard pile driver and the experienced defender added a second in the 40th, after Joe Badrov had made it 2-0 in the 37th.

Luke Glavas chimed in with two as well, either side of half time, to complete a solid against the unpredictable Wollongong side. But it was to prove all in vain, this 5-0 win on the south coast.

Meanwhile, there had been some anxious moments for Northern Tigers coach, Fred Mesiti and his crew, up at Parklands Oval, where Bathurst clawed their way back to be only 2-1 down at half time.

That meant the home team had to dig deep to preserve their slender lead.

Matt Hunter had given the Tigers the lead in the 11th and Mount Kuring-gai's own Scott Ryan increased that slender early lead to 2-0 in the 33rd, before David Baillie pulled one back for Bathurst just seconds before the break.

The second half saw the Tigers still well on top but unable to hit that extra goal to make the game completely safe, though at the finish they had hung on anyway to win 2-1 and take the title on their own turf.

The victory brings back memories of earlier triumphs by Ku-ring-gai and later North Shore United, who also won the corresponding division many times in the 70s and late 80s.

Roll on the semi-finals!

## ...INSIDE...



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## NSW STATE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

### NEPEAN IN FINALS, MT DRUITT POST A WIN

with Paul Goodwin

The fight for fifth spot in the First Division was raging on Sunday, as Nepean battled Mount Pritchard knowing that a win could see them leap over Bathurst into the finals.

Miro Maco had put Mount Pritchard one goal up at Cook Park in the 15th, but by the 37th Nepean was on level terms.

Marc Hoenselaars hit a powerful shot from 18 yards out that bounced out again after being bundled over the line, and was ruled a goal.

Then in the 75th Michael Wood managed to finish nicely, after another Hoenselaars shot had been only parried by the Mounties' keeper, following a fine Glen McPherson cross.

Finally, a good build-up through the midfield saw Phil Hartshorn drive home firmly from the edge of the area in the 87th minute, for a win that brings finals' football to Nepean in at least two of the grades, though their Under 21s slipped from equal first to sixth following their earlier loss.

Still, the first grade beat the Mounties without Sean Babic, who had not missed a game in many weeks.

Schofields had to settle for yet another point after leading early against Liverpool Bossy in what proved an enjoyable and entertaining contest at Ernie Smith Reserve.

Todd Macrae, who later limped off injured with a pulled thigh muscle - he was one of several Schofields men troubled by illness or injury on the day, gave his side a 33rd minute lead.

Matt Mikhail was responsible for much of the lead-up work for the Schofields goal.

Liverpool fought back well in front of a healthy crowd of home supporters and, from Admir Smajovic's cross, Mladen Damjanovic swept the ball into the Schofields net in the 76th minute for his first goal in some months. It was enough to retain the mantle of club top scorer for the

season with six goals.

White City enjoyed a rare success, fighting off Hills United to win 4-1 and ensure the club stayed away from the very bottom of the ladder.

After Ben Evans had given Hills United a 7th minute lead, Pasquale Colaluce equalized for City in the 10th minute.

Milan Savic propelled them ahead in the 62nd.

Finally a Bradley Srcek penalty in the 69th and a further strike from Joe Zrinjanin in the 86th put the game beyond the reach of Hills, whose season ended disappointingly.

Wanderers Cedars easily accounted for Belmore Hercules at Blick Oval.

Hassam Nough got them ahead in the 27th minute and then a brace from Robbie Issa in the 32nd and the 42nd led to a later effort from Khaled Elkerhani in the 66th, that settled it 4-0 in favour of the third placed Wanderers. During the week Mount Druitt and Western Rage had played out a 4-3 thriller at Popondetta Park, with all but Eddie Adam's second minute goal coming in the second period.

Spencer cancelled out that strike moments after the restart, but Luis Berbis and Kamahl Codmani struck straight back to send their side into a 3-1 lead and an Adam penalty in the 58th put the game almost beyond the reach of Mount Druitt.

Yet they kept plugging away and eventually scored twice more themselves, with Garth Tehliwec and Wilson hitting the target.

The return game on Sunday saw a completely different outcome. The home side, Mount Druitt, scored thrice, with all their goals coming in the first period. As early as the third minute Petrovski found the target for the Town Rangers and half an hour later Clarke did too.

Finally, on the stroke of half time, Hooton made it 3-0 and it was a nice way for the bottom side to finish the season, with a victory at last!

### NSW ACADEMY SECURE GRAND FINAL BERTH



The NSW Academy have booked themselves a place in the Women's Super League grand final with a 2-0 victory over the Olympic Sharks in their major semi final on Sunday night at Valentine Sports Park.

The match began at a frenetic pace, with the Academy hitting the lead in the 4th minute via a freakish goal from striker Aysha Adalis. Adalis was somehow able to beat Sharks goalkeeper, Erin Hunter, with an angled drive from a position on the goal line a few metres from the sideline.

The second goal came in the 22nd minute, after some good work down the left hand side landed a cross at the feet of Adalis who drilled home clinically from within the box.

From there on the pace of the game slowed down and settled into a more manageable rhythm. Both sides created chances, but failed to finish Olympic Sharks Coach, Chris Bradley was philosophical about the defeat.

"We were behind the eight-ball after dropping two early goals, which were

mainly due to a breakdown in communication. But I was pleased with our performance in the second half, where we created began to create more opportunities and threatened to come back on occasion.

"The more pressure that we exerted, the more possession we tended to get and we were a little unlucky not to get a goal back through Sarah Walsh midway through the second half.

"If we play with like we did in the second half against Northern next weekend, I'm sure we'll be able to match it again with the NSW Academy in the Grand Final," Bradley said.

Alen Stajcic, the NSW Academy coach, was satisfied with the result.

"The first half was very dynamic, with two well taken goals, although a few defensive lapses allowed them to come back into the game in the second half.

"Our attack was excellent, and were unlucky not to have a couple more goals after hitting the posts and cross-bar."

It has been a memorable season for the Academy team who remain undefeated for an extraordinary 37 games straight. Coach Stajcic will be keen to extend the record to 38 to cap off the perfect season.

In the minor semi-final, the Northern NSW Academy accounted last years' champions, the Marconi Stallions with

an emphatic 2-1 victory.

Marconi had the lead in the 14th minute when Fabiana Perfilio opened the scoring for the Stallions, but Hayley Crawford leveled the scores 7 minutes later.

Shortly after the half-time break, with the scores still locked at one goal a piece, Northern goalkeeper, Erin Herd, was red-carded for impeding an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. Tara McMinn was sacrificially substituted to allow reserve keeper Alison Logue to take on custodial duties.

Soon after the commotion, Northern grabbed the lead through midfielder Ashley Wilson. Although Marconi strived for the equaliser, it was not forthcoming, and last year's champions lost the opportunity to defend their title in 2003.

In the Women's State League, Sydney University is through to the grand final, scoring a late goal to secure a 2-1 victory over close rivals University of New South. UNSW will now face St George Association, who survived a penalty shoot out with the Roselands Raptors in the minor semi-final.



## WINTER SUPER & STATE LEAGUE RESULTS & TABLES

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 13:

FIRST GRADE: Western Rage 4 (E Adam 2m Penalty) 58m L Berbis 48m K Codmani 50m) Mt Druitt Town 3 (T Spencer 46m G Tehliwec 68m T Wilson 83m).

GRADE 21: Western Rage 0 Mt Druitt Town 10.

GRADE 19: Western Rage 0 Mt Druitt Town 3 (Win by forfeit).

### ROUND 24:

GRADE 19: Mt Druitt Town 1 Nepean Association 3.

### ROUND 26:

FIRST GRADE: Mt Pritchard 1 (M Maco 15m) Nepean Association 3 (Marc Hoenselaars 37m M Wood 75m P Hartshorn 87m), Wollongong United 0 Hurstville ZSC 5 (J Badrov 37m R Plesa 54m L Glavas 43m/69m), Mt Druitt Town 3 (P Petrovski 3m B Clarke 33m B Hooton 45m) Western Rage 0, Bathurst 75 1 (D Baillie 45m) Northern Tigers 2 (M Hunter 11m S Ryan 33m), White City 4 (P Colsluce 10m M Savic 62m B Srcek 69m pen J Zrinjanin 86m) Hills United 1 (B Evans 7m), Liverpool Bossy 1 (M Damjanovic 76m) Schofields Scorpions 1 (T MacRae 33m), Belmore Hercules 0 Wanderers Cedars 4 (H Nough 27m R Issa 32/42m K Elkerhani 66m).

GRADE 21: Mt Pritchard 2 Nepean Association 1, Wollongong United 0 Hurstville ZSC 10, Mt Druitt Town 3 Western Rage 0 (Win by Forfeit), Bathurst 75 2 Northern Tigers 2, White City 1 Hills United 3, Liverpool Bossy 0 Schofields Scorpions 3, Belmore Hercules 2 Wanderers Cedars 5.

GRADE 19: Mt Pritchard 3 Nepean Association 1, Wollongong United 2 Hurstville ZSC 3, Mt Druitt Town 4 Western Rage 1, Bathurst 75 0 Northern Tigers 0, White City 2 Hills United 3, Liverpool Bossy 0 Schofields Scorpions 1, Belmore Hercules 1 Wanderers Cedars 5.

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Tigers	26	19	4	3	62	23	39	61
Hurstville ZSC	26	18	6	2	64	27	37	60
Wanderers Cedars	26	16	6	4	65	33	32	54
Mt Pritchard	26	14	7	5	35	22	13	49
Nepean Association	26	12	7	7	50	25	25	43
Bathurst 75	26	11	6	9	29	24	5	39
Schofields Scorpions	26	9	9	8	38	35	3	36
Hills United	26	8	8	10	44	42	2	32
Western Rage	26	6	8	12	34	55	-21	26
White City	26	7	5	14	32	61	-29	26
Wollongong United	26	7	2	17	33	71	-38	23
Belmore Hercules	26	6	3	17	34	59	-25	21
Liverpool Bossy	26	4	8	14	27	42	-15	20
Mt Druitt Town	26	4	3	19	20	48	-28	15

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Hills United	26	15	8	3	85	27	58	53
Nepean Association	26	16	5	5	70	28	42	53
Wanderers Cedars	26	16	4	6	84	30	54	52
Schofields Scorpions	26	15	7	4	78	29	49	52
Northern Tigers	26	15	7	4	72	24	48	52
Hurstville ZSC	26	16	4	6	65	29	36	52
Mt Pritchard	26	14	7	5	67	34	33	49
Mt Druitt Town	26	14	4	8	52	35	17	46
Bathurst 75	26	8	2	16	41	60	-19	26
Liverpool Bossy	26	7	4	15	62	56	6	25
White City	26	8	1	17	53	68	-15	25
Wollongong United	26	3	2	21	23	132	-109	11
Western Rage	26	3	2	21	26	143	-117	11
Belmore Hercules	26	2	3	21	25	108	-83	9

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE GRADE 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Association	26	21	4	1	97	25	72	67
Northern Tigers	26	18	1	7	66	32	34	55
Mt Druitt Town	26	16	5	5	59	29	30	53
Wanderers Cedars	26	15	4	7	81	52	29	49
Hills United	26	15	2	9	65	28	37	47
Mt Pritchard	26	14	5	7	56	25	31	47
Hurstville ZSC	26	13	2	11	67	59	8	41
Schofields Scorpions	26	11	7	8	52	41	11	40
Bathurst 75	26	8	10	4	47	47	0	32
White City	26	10	2	14	52	56	-4	32
Liverpool Bossy	26	6	3	17	42	88	-46	21
Western Rage	26	4	4	18	38	95	-57	16
Wollongong United	26	3	3	20	31	106	-75	12
Belmore Hercules	26	2	2	22	19	89	-70	8

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 18:

FIRST GRADE: Greenisland Soccer Club 0 University of NSW 2 (D Winterton 15m M O'Hara 21m), Western Red Devils 2 (H Ju 45m I Tarcen 48m) Auburn Star 3 (S Jordan 47m B Panoutsopoulos 15m).

GRADE 21: Greenisland Soccer Club 0 University of NSW 7. GRADE 19: Concord FC 1 Camden Tigers 2.

Western Red Devils 0 Auburn Star 3 (Win by Forfeit).

### ROUND 24:

FIRST GRADE: Hawkesbury City 1 (Q Wells 44m) Auburn Star 0, Blacktown Association 1 (G Ozcan 46m) Camden Tigers 2 (G King 28m W Horne 45m), Sporting SCC 5 (M Hurtado 13/32m O Marquez 29m M Gonzales 77m J Novosadek 82m) University of NSW 3 (M O'Hara 23/26m A Wagiel 85m), Springwood Soccer Club 2 (M Haberman 37m C Johnson 71m) Greenisland Soccer Club 1 (S Varas 54m), Parramatta City 2 (S Doueihi 75m D Hill 79m) Western Red Devils

4 (I Tarcen 10m H Ju 43m H Seo 71m pen P Ifandoudas 89m pen), Greystanes Soccer Club 1 (A Jennings 88m) Concord FC 1 (A Cetinay 5m). GRADE 21: Hawkesbury City 13 Auburn Star 0, Blacktown Association 0 Camden Tigers 7, Sporting SCC 2 University of NSW 1, Springwood Soccer Club 6 Greenisland Soccer Club 0, Parramatta City 3 Western Red Devils 4, Greystanes Soccer Club 4 Concord FC 0. GRADE 19: Hawkesbury City 3 Auburn Star 0 (Win by forfeit), Blacktown Association 0 Camden Tigers 6, Sporting SCC 2 University of NSW 3, Springwood Soccer Club 3 Greenisland Soccer Club 0 (Win by forfeit), Parramatta City vs Western Red Devils Postponed, Greystanes Soccer Club 1 Concord FC 2.

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Camden Tigers	21	12	6	3	50	29	21	42
Greystanes SC	21	9	3	9	47	31	16	36
Concord FC	20	11	2	7	42	27	15	35
Springwood SC	20	10	4	6	38	23	15	34
University of NSW	21	8	5	8	34	23	11	32
Hakoah	21	7	10	4	35	29	6	31
Western Red Devils	20	8	6	6	45	45	0	30
Blacktown Association	21	7	5	9	35	38	-3	26
Hawkesbury City	21	7	4	10	33	36	-3	25
Auburn Star	21	7	4	10	37	51	-14	25
Greenisland SC	21	5	6	10	37	50	-13	21
Parramatta City	21	5	3	13	29	64	-35	18
Sporting SCC	21	5	1	15	21	37	-16	16

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE: ROUND 24:

FIRST GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 1 Inter Lions 1, East Coast Magic 10 Roosters Football Club 1, Lithgow Workmen 0 Balmain Soccer Club 2, Kosciuszko 0 UTS 6, Prospect United 3 Gladesville United 1, Gazy Lansvale 4 Colo Colo 3, Southern Star Sharks 0 Trasandinos 0.

RESERVE GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 1 Inter Lions 1, East Coast Magic 4 Roosters Football Club 4, Lithgow Workmen 0 Balmain Soccer Club 1, Kosciuszko 1 UTS 5, Prospect Utd 5 Gladesville Utd 4, Gazy Lansvale 1 Colo Colo 1, Southern Star Sharks 1 Trasandinos 6.

### STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Inter Lions	22	16	5	1	79	20	59	53
Prospect United	22	16	3	4	71	29	42	51
UTS	22	13	6	4	77	26	51	45
Trasandinos	22	12	7	4	54	28	26	43
Southern Star Sharks	22	12	5	6	47	37	10	41
Kellyville Kolts	22	11	6	6	57	29	28	39
East Coast Magic	22	11	5	7	56	37	19	38
Balmain Soccer Club	22	10	6	7	55	43	12	36
Gladesville United	22	6	6	11	48	57	-9	24
Lithgow Workmen	22	6	5	12	40	46	-6	23
Colo Colo	22	5	5	13	24	54	-30	20
Gazy Lansvale	22	5	2	15	44	81	-37	17
Kosciuszko	22	4	3	16	23	80	-57	15
Roosters FC	22	1	0	22	18	126	-108	3

### WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE - FINAL SERIES

#### MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: NSW Academy 2 Olympic Sharks 0. GRADE 21: NSW Academy 1 Northern NSW Academy 2. MINOR SEMI FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Marconi 1 (F Perfilio 14m) Northern NSW Academy 2 (H Crawford 21m A Wilson 56m). GRADE 21: Olympic Sharks 2 Marconi 1.

#### WOMENS STATE LEAGUE - FINAL SERIES

#### MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 21: University of NSW 7 Granville Association 0. MINOR SEMI FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Roselands Raptors 3 St George Association 4 penalties (1-1 F/T 1-1 E/T). GRADE 21: Sydney University 4 Roselands Raptors 1.



## YOUTH LEAGUE REVIEW

by Barry Davis

This season seems to have flown past as we suddenly find ourselves at the business end. There is one round to play in each of the Youth League divisions and three more to go in the S.S.I. Girls Youth League while the "attack" Metropolitan League teams have completed their competition. The good news for those of us who need our weekly soccer "fix" is that there is plenty of action yet to come over the next few weeks.

My thanks to the many people who responded favourably to our attempts to kill off the rumours surrounding the future of Youth League soccer for 2004 and beyond. Several folk have been in touch to express their appreciation for the information and facts provided in this column last week. Of course, there will always be a group of "know-alls" who will tell you that they have "inside information" from "influential sources" and if you believe them, you are as bad as they are.

### Premier Youth League - Round 26

The Club Championship winning Blacktown City juggernaut continues to roll on as they took all the points from their clash with Sydney United at Cook Park, Mt Pritchard. That takes their lead on the Combined Table to a remarkable thirty-five points after Olympic Sharks could only manage to take eleven points at home against sixth-placed Northern Spirit. Marconi Stallions grabbed eleven points away to Penrith Panthers and they have leap-frogged Wollongong Wolves into third place since the south coast club could only take eight points at home against seventh-placed Newcastle United. Parramatta Eagles are fifth and they will be scratching their heads about how they could only take a meagre four points from their home games against eleventh-placed Bankstown City Cubs. Central Coast moved to eighth spot after they had a field day against Sutherland Shire Sharks, taking thirteen points from the clash. Southern Branch and A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers completed their season with a South Nowra clash that saw them split the points evenly. We will not see either club again this year as they played their Round 13 matches a fortnight ago (APIA took ten points that day) and neither has a team in the finals series.

**Grade 12.** Having already secured the title, Ken Schembri's Blacktown City remained the only undefeated team in Youth League when they beat tenth-placed Sydney United 1-0. Wollongong Wolves are second after they accounted for eighth-placed Newcastle United 1-0 and Olympic Sharks have taken third spot from Northern Spirit after they beat them by the odd goal in a five goal thriller. Marconi Stallions round out the current top five following their 2-1 win over Penrith Panthers. Sixth-placed Central Coast had a healthy 3-1 victory over Sutherland Shire Sharks and A.P.I.A. Leichhardt completed their 2003 commitments with a respectable 3-0 win over Southern Branch. Bankstown City Cubs recorded their second win for the season when they rolled the better-performed Parramatta Eagles 1-0.

**Finals Watch.** With the Minor Premiership already decided there is plenty of interest in the matches this weekend as they will determine the other positions for the finals. Wollongong Wolves face a difficult assignment against Newcastle United at Macquarie Field where they need to win to guarantee themselves second position. Northern Spirit will be hoping to reverse last week's result when they meet Olympic Sharks at Christie Park. However, Spirit have not posted a three-pointer in their last seven outings. The Sharks know that they may be able to grab second spot if they win again (and the Wolves lose or draw) so they will be very keen to take all three points. Marconi Stallions will be eager to beat Penrith Panthers again as Central Coast are only a point behind them and they will want to repeat last week's effort against Sutherland Shire Sharks.

**Grade 13.** Congratulations go to Paul Costantini's Blacktown City as they have wrapped up the Minor Premiership for the third year in a row. Their comfortable 4-0 win over Sydney United ensured that they retained a four point lead over Michael Soames' Olympic Sharks. Gavin Forbes provided a double for the Demons while David Catt and Jessie Pinto provided the others. The Sharks were back to their best after a three-week horror patch with a healthy 3-0 win over fourth-placed Northern Spirit. Parramatta Eagles have retained third position with a good 2-0 result over Bankstown City Cubs while Sutherland Shire Sharks are fifth despite their 2-1 loss to seventh-placed Central Coast. Sixth-placed Wollongong Wolves missed a golden opportunity to overtake the Sharks on goal difference when Newcastle United beat them 2-1. Marconi Stallions knocked off Penrith Panthers 1-0 and Southern Branch rolled A.P.I.A. Leichhardt 3-1.

**Finals Watch.** The top four will remain exactly where they are, no matter what happens this week. Sutherland Shire Sharks will be desperate to take at least one point from the return game against Central Coast as that will be enough to assure them of fifth spot. However, the Wolves are ready to pounce if they can beat Newcastle and the Sharks slip up. The Novocastrians are certainly no easy-beats though, especially at home.

**Grade 14.** George Koimani's Blacktown City have held onto the lead by two points with a 1-0 win over Ben de Haan's fifth-placed Sydney United. Marconi Stallions are applying tremendous pressure as theoretically they have a game in hand (the Round 21 match against third-placed Parramatta Eagles may need to be replayed) and they beat Penrith Panthers 3-2, a surprisingly close scoreline. Parramatta Eagles are three points further back after they were held to a 1-1 draw by mid-table Bankstown City Cubs. Wollongong Wolves are fourth after they battled out a 2-2 draw with tenth-placed Newcastle United. Sixth-placed Olympic Sharks missed the opportunity to draw level with Sydney United when they were held to a scoreless draw by eleventh-placed Northern Spirit. Central Coast defeated Sutherland Shire Sharks 2-0 while Southern Branch and A.P.I.A. Leichhardt drew 1-1.

**Finals Watch.** Despite the results of the coming weekend, the outcome of this competition may rest on the outcome of that game between Marconi Stallions and Parramatta Eagles. Let's look at the weekend first! The return clash between Blacktown City and Sydney United is sure to be fascinating because the Demons must win to give themselves the best chance of claiming the title while United need at least a draw to be sure of playing in the finals. Marconi will need to repeat their win against Penrith and Parramatta will need to beat Bankstown this time around. Wollongong Wolves face a daunting task but they will be desperate

to beat Newcastle but they can afford to settle for a draw. Olympic Sharks will be anxious to win and score a bag full of goals and hope the Sydney United do not get a result against Blacktown. Now for the replay! Let's assume that the top three win their games on the weekend. If Marconi wins the replay, they will be Minor Premiers. If the game is a draw or Parramatta win, Blacktown will be the Minor Premiers. However, if either of the top two drop points on Saturday.....ooh, that's too hard! You work it out. Or simply read this column next week to find out what really happened.

**Grade 15.** Martoni Stallions have maintained their six point lead that saw them claim the title last week. This time they accounted for wooden-spooners Penrith Panthers with a 2-0 scoreline. Blacktown City are second after they beat mid-table Sydney United by a comfortable 4-1 and Olympic Sharks are third following their 1-1 draw with fourth-placed Northern Spirit. Bankstown City Cubs beat sixth-placed Parramatta Eagles 1-0 to secure fifth spot. Sutherland Shire Sharks are eighth after their 1-1 draw with Central Coast, Wollongong Wolves edged out Newcastle United 1-0 and A.P.I.A. Leichhardt downed Southern Branch 3-0 in their last hurrah for season 2003.

**Finals Watch.** There will be no movement in the top three but there will be some interest in the remaining two spots. If Parramatta beat Bankstown by two goals they can claim fifth place on goal difference. Northern Spirit need at least a point from their clash with Olympic to be sure of fourth spot. If Spirit lose and Bankstown win, the Cubs will move to fourth and the Eagles will miss out.

**Grade 17.** Highly regarded Newcastle United remain at the top of the tree after their 2-2 draw with second-placed Wollongong Wolves and Olympic Sharks are still within striking distance of the top two after they defeated Northern Spirit by a healthy 3-0. Bankstown City are making their presence felt with a 4-0 result over Parramatta Eagles who have just returned from England. Blacktown City have secured fifth spot with a 1-0 win over mid-table Sydney United. Southern Branch completed their season with a handy 2-0 win over A.P.I.A. Leichhardt while last-placed Penrith Panthers surprised everyone with a 1-0 win over Marconi Stallions. Central Coast accounted for Sutherland Shire Sharks 2-1.

**Finals Watch.** What a finish we have in store! Much depends on the results achieved in three games. The only thing that is certain is that Blacktown City will finish in fifth spot. The clash of the year will be between the top two. They both need to win since a draw could see Olympic claim the title should they beat eleventh-placed Northern Spirit by a reasonable margin. Bankstown City are a point too far away to grab first place but they could finish as high as second should they beat Parramatta again, Newcastle win and Olympic draw.

### Super Youth League - Round 26

Congratulations go to AC United who have won the Club Championship after they established a twenty-one point lead at the top of the Combined Table thanks to the ten points they picked up against Nepean who have subsequently fallen back to fourth place. Second-placed Macarthur Rams did not have the best of days as they could only take eight points from mid-table Blacktown Association. They will probably remain in the runners-up position as they have a ten point break on Manly Warringah Dolphins who pocketed twelve points from their visit to eleventh-placed Hajduk Wanderers who earned three points from the Round 14 catch-up 17s game against Northern Tigers. Northern Tigers picked up ten points from their home game against Camden Tigers and nine more from Round 19 catch-up games against Hills United and they now find themselves in fifth place. Eastern Suburbs are fourteen points adrift in sixth spot after they gained nine points from their visit to Mingara Lakers. Fairfield Bulls shared the points evenly with Bonnyrigg White Eagles who seem to be picking up late-season points with monotonous regularity. Also splitting the spoils evenly were Hills United and St George but Hills had the added benefit of a six point gain from the catch-up matches against Northern Tigers.

Condolences go to Camden Tigers' popular and hard-working YL Convenor, Rick Carroll, for sad loss of his wife, Barbara, who died suddenly ten days ago. All soccer supporters will want to join "Youth League Review" in extending their sympathies to Rick and his children.

**Grade 12.** Manly Warringah Dolphins are shading Northern Tigers and AC United on goal difference at the top of the table. The Dolphins gave tail-enders Hajduk Wanderers a 7-0 soccer lesson while Northern Tigers knocked off ninth-placed Camden Tigers 2-1 on Saturday and eighth-placed Hills United 2-0 on Sunday and AC were 2-0 winners over seventh-placed Nepean. Macarthur Rams are twelve points adrift and fourth after they edged out sixth-placed Blacktown Association 1-0 and Eastern Suburbs are fifth following their 2-1 loss to Mingara Lakers. Hills United had a comfortable 4-1 win over St George while Bonnyrigg White Eagles rolled Fairfield Bulls 2-0 with both goals coming from Ryan Milne.

**Finals Watch.** This weekend will decide the title in this grade. The Dolphins are at home to Hajduk Wanderers and they will be looking to repeat this week's effort. Northern Tigers are away to Camden Tigers and they will be hoping to have a healthy result while AC United are at home to Nepean where they need a very good scoreline. No matter what happens those teams will hold down the top three spots. Macarthur Rams will stay in fourth place and Eastern Suburbs are assured of fifth position.

**Grade 13.** AC United have overtaken Nepean to take a slender one point lead at the top after they beat the lads from the foot of the mountains 2-1 at Cook Park. Eleven points behind are Macarthur Rams who are sitting in third spot on goal difference following their scoreless draw with fourth-placed Blacktown Association. Manly Warringah Dolphins sit in fifth place after their 1-0 win over next-to-last Hajduk Wanderers. They have a nine point break on a group of three headed by Hills United who lost 2-0 to ninth-placed St George on Saturday and then were 3-1 victors over Northern Tigers on Sunday. Northern Tigers had a hefty 4-1 win over Camden Tigers while Eastern Suburbs suffered a 3-2 loss to Mingara Lakers. Bonnyrigg White Eagles played out a scoreless draw with Fairfield Bulls.

**Finals Watch.** While there may be some changes to the order, the top five are cemented in place. The final round could not have been better scripted. AC United have the advantage of having won the first of the two games but Nepean will be looking for revenge and the title so the return game should be a thriller.

The same should apply to the rematch between Macarthur and Blacktown where both will be pushing hard for the win that will give them third place. Manly Warringah are assured of fifth place but they will be looking for a healthy win to give them some confidence for the finals.

**Grade 14.** Already crowned Minor Premiers Nepean continued their success with a hefty 6-2 win over fifth-placed AC United. Second-placed Northern Tigers had a mixed bag of results, losing 1-0 to sixth-placed Camden Tigers on Saturday and then beating cellar-dwelling Hills United 2-1 on Sunday. Hajduk Wanderers are three points back in third place after they defeated Manly Warringah Dolphins 3-1 and fourth-placed Eastern Suburbs accounted for Mingara Lakers by the same scoreline. Fairfield Bulls knocked Bonnyrigg White Eagles back to ninth position with a 2-0 win while eighth-placed Macarthur Rams whacked Blacktown Association 3-0. St George edged out Hills United 2-1.

**Finals Watch.** Nepean are safely positioned in the top spot but things could be a little bit scary for the teams following them. Northern Tigers need to play Camden Tigers again and they need at least a point to remain second whereas Camden will be looking for another win to give themselves a chance of breaking into the top five. Hajduk Wanderers could move to second if they have a good win but they are assured of at least third spot. Eastern Suburbs need at least a draw with Mingara Lakers to stay in fourth position. AC must find a way to beat Nepean if they are to remain in the five as both Camden and Fairfield Bulls are ready to grab the spot. Macarthur Rams and Bonnyrigg White Eagles are only two points behind fifth but they will both need to hope for a lot of other results to miraculously go their way if they are to play any part in the finals.

**Grade 15.** Competition leading Macarthur Rams suffered a very surprising 2-1 loss to tenth-placed Blacktown Association when a win would have given them the title and now second-placed Eastern Suburbs, who beat Mingara Lakers 1-0, are in a position to strike if the Rams slip-up again. Manly Warringah Dolphins are now only two points behind the leaders after they had a 3-0 success over Hajduk Wanderers. Sitting in fourth spot, ten points further back, St George suffered a 3-0 loss to fifth-placed Hills United who knocked off Northern Tigers 2-0 on Sunday. Nepean drew 1-1 with AC United in a clash between sixth and seventh placed teams. Fairfield Bulls defeated Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2-0. Northern Tigers drew 1-1 with Camden Tigers on Saturday.

**Finals Watch.** Things are now wide open at the top end of the table but there will be no alteration to the teams in the current top five. Macarthur Rams will need to reverse last week's result if they are to claim the Minor Premiership as anything other than a win could hand it to Eastern Suburbs who will be confident of rolling Mingara at home. If the top two make any mistake the Dolphins are well placed to take full advantage. If Hills can repeat last week's success they will overtake St George and grab fourth place.

**Grade 17.** AC United are leading the way by three points after they rolled Nepean 4-1 and Hills United could only take a single point from the weekend from a scoreless draw with St George on Saturday and on Sunday they suffered a 2-0 loss to third-placed Northern Tigers who had beaten Camden Tigers 1-0 but lost the Round 14 catch-up match against Hajduk Wanderers 2-1. The Wanderers are fifth after they lost 1-0 to Manly Warringah Dolphins. Fairfield Bulls dropped back to fourth after they were surprisingly beaten 2-1 by twelfth-placed Bonnyrigg White Eagles who have won three of their last four. This time their goals were provided by Boban and Jovan. Macarthur Rams were held to a 2-2 draw by Blacktown Association after taking a 2-0 lead into the break. Eastern Suburbs beat Mingara Lakers 1-0 at the foot of the table.

**Finals Watch.** Things could be a little tricky this weekend but it is unlikely that there will be a change to the current top group. AC United will be confident that they can knock off Nepean again to claim the top spot. Hills United will need to beat St George if they are to retain second place. Northern Tigers will find that Camden Tigers are no easy-beats at their beloved Ron Dine Reserve but Northern must go looking for the full ration of points. Fairfield Bulls need to find a way to reverse last week's result if they are to have any hope of finishing higher than fourth. Hajduk Wanderers look fairly safe in fifth spot as they would have to lose by a good margin and Macarthur Rams would need to win convincingly for them to change places.

### Division One Youth League

Schofields Scorpions increased their lead on the Combined Table to nine points after they clocked up nine points against Rockdale City Suns while second-placed Mt Pritchard could only earn five at third-placed Ryde City who were grateful for their eight point share. Wollongong United only managed to take nine points from Hawkesbury City but they remain in fourth position. Dulwich Hill are fifth after they took eleven points from Stanmore Hawks. On Saturday Granville slipped nine points into their pockets at Parramatta City's expense and then did the same thing to MSC Liverpool in Round 20 catch-up action on Sunday. MSC had a good day against Hurstville City Minotaurs as they grabbed ten of the available points. Canterbury Bankstown and Mt Druitt split the points at six apiece.

**Grade 12.** Congratulations to Schofields Scorpions who have retained their four point lead and that is enough for them to claim the title this week. They easily beat Rockdale City Suns through goals from Chris Lloyd, Robert Wenzel and Imran Emerali. Second-placed Wollongong United also posted a 3-0 scoreline, theirs being over Hawkesbury City while third-placed Granville picked up three points on Saturday with a 1-0 victory over fourth-placed Parramatta City and then three more on Sunday when they beat sixth-placed MSC Liverpool 2-0 who had beaten Hurstville City Minotaurs 4-1. Ryde City retained fifth position after they drew 2-2 with seventh-placed Mt Pritchard. Dulwich Hill shaded the better-performed Stanmore Hawks 1-0 while Canterbury Bankstown drew 1-1 with Mt Druitt Town.

**Finals Watch.** The top three are absolutely secure in their positions but there may be some changes in the other two spots. Parramatta City need at least a point from their match against Granville to be sure of fourth place. If not, Ryde City could overtake them by drawing with Mt Pritchard. However, if Ryde lose to the Mounties they will probably hang onto fifth as MSC Liverpool would need a very big win against Hurstville to leapfrog them. (continued on page 26)



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## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 26:

**GRADE 12:** Southern Branch YL 0 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 3, Penrith Panthers 1 Marconi Stallions 2, Parramatta Eagles 0 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Olympic Sharks 3 Northern Spirit 2, Central Coast Coasties 2 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Sydney United 0 Blacktown City 1, Wollongong Wolves 1 Newcastle United 0.

**GRADE 13:** Southern Branch YL 3 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Penrith Panthers 0 Marconi Stallions 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Olympic Sharks 3 Northern Spirit 0, Central Coast Coasties 2 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Sydney United 0 Blacktown City 4, Wollongong Wolves 1 Newcastle United 2.

**GRADE 14:** Southern Branch YL 1 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Penrith Panthers 2 Marconi Stallions 3, Parramatta Eagles 1 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Olympic Sharks 0 Northern Spirit 0, Central Coast Coasties 2 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Sydney United 0 Blacktown City 1, Wollongong Wolves 2 Newcastle United 2.

**GRADE 15:** Southern Branch YL 0 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 3, Penrith Panthers 0 Marconi Stallions 2, Parramatta Eagles 0 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Olympic Sharks 1 Northern Spirit 1, Central Coast Coasties 1 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Sydney United 1 Blacktown City 4, Wollongong Wolves 1 Newcastle United 0.

**GRADE 17:** Southern Branch 2 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0, Penrith Panthers 1 Marconi Stallions 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 Bankstown City Cubs 4, Olympic Sharks 3 Northern Spirit 0, Central Coast Coasties 2 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Sydney United 0 Blacktown City 1, Wollongong Wolves 2 Newcastle United 2.

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE - RESCHEDULED FROM ROUND 19:

**GRADE 12:** Northern Tigers 2 Hills United 0.  
**GRADE 13:** Northern Tigers 1 Hills United 3.  
**GRADE 14:** Northern Tigers 2 Hills United 1.  
**GRADE 15:** Northern Tigers 0 Hills United 2.  
**GRADE 17:** Northern Tigers 2 Hills United 0.

## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	25	21	4	0	61	13	48	67
Wollongong Wolves	25	15	6	4	34	18	16	51
Olympic Sharks	25	15	4	6	48	26	22	49
Northern Spirit	25	15	3	7	58	29	29	48
Marconi Stallions	25	12	5	8	40	34	6	41
Central Coast	25	12	4	9	38	28	10	40
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	25	13	1	12	34	38	-4	40
Newcastle United	25	11	5	9	39	33	6	38
Penrith Panthers	25	12	2	11	36	32	4	38
Sydney United	25	8	3	14	32	42	-10	27
Parramatta Eagles	25	7	4	14	25	38	-13	25
Sutherland Shire	25	6	4	16	16	52	-36	18
Sutherland Shire	25	3	3	19	18	56	-38	12
Bankstown City	25	2	2	21	8	48	-40	8

## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	25	20	3	2	60	12	48	63
Olympic Sharks	25	19	2	4	71	14	57	59
Parramatta Eagles	25	17	4	4	49	21	28	55
Northern Spirit	25	17	0	8	65	33	32	51
Sutherland Shire	25	12	8	5	46	25	21	44
Wollongong Wolves	25	12	5	8	58	27	31	41
Central Coast	25	12	4	9	35	35	0	40
Marconi Stallions	25	10	5	10	43	41	2	35
Newcastle United	25	10	3	12	26	33	-7	33
Sydney United	25	6	4	15	23	60	-37	22
Southern Branch YL	26	7	1	18	27	74	-47	22
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	6	0	20	20	78	-51	18
Penrith Panthers	25	4	5	16	26	41	-15	17
Bankstown City	25	2	0	23	9	71	-62	6

## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	25	17	3	5	38	14	24	54
Marconi Stallions	24	16	4	4	48	21	27	52
Parramatta Eagles	24	14	7	3	44	21	23	49
Wollongong Wolves	25	14	6	5	52	35	17	48
Sydney United	25	12	6	7	41	23	18	42
Olympic Sharks	25	10	10	5	29	17	12	40
Central Coast	25	8	9	8	33	31	2	32
Bankstown City	25	7	11	7	23	22	1	32
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	7	9	10	27	43	-16	30
Newcastle United	25	6	9	10	24	35	-11	27
Northern Spirit	25	6	7	12	29	35	-6	25
Penrith Panthers	25	4	6	15	24	43	-19	18
Southern Branch YL	26	4	4	18	27	74	-47	16
Sutherland Shire	25	3	4	18	17	42	-25	13

## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Marconi Stallions	25	19	4	2	54	17	37	61
Blacktown City	25	17	4	4	59	20	39	55
Olympic Sharks	25	15	5	5	40	23	17	50
Northern Spirit	25	12	8	5	44	22	22	44
Bankstown City	25	12	6	7	35	26	9	42
Parramatta Eagles	25	12	3	10	36	29	7	39
Sydney United	25	9	4	12	33	36	-3	31
Sutherland Shire	25	8	6	11	34	41	-7	30
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	7	7	12	40	39	1	28
Wollongong Wolves	25	8	4	13	25	43	-18	28
Newcastle United	25	6	8	11	33	45	-12	26
Southern Branch YL	26	6	5	15	28	61	-33	23
Central Coast	25	5	6	14	20	42	-22	21
Penrith Panthers	25	2	6	17	16	53	-37	12

## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	25	15	6	4	49	20	29	51
Wollongong Wolves	25	15	5	5	50	31	19	50
Olympic Sharks	25	15	4	6	55	30	25	49
Bankstown City	25	13	9	3	49	27	22	48
Blacktown City	25	12	7	6	41	28	13	43
Southern Branch YL	26	11	6	9	40	40	0	39
Parramatta Eagles	25	10	5	10	35	33	2	35
Marconi Stallions	25	6	6	11	37	33	4	30
Sydney United	25	6	9	10	25	31	-6	27
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	26	8	3	15	20	54	-34	27
Northern Spirit	25	8	2	15	36	52	-16	26
Central Coast	25	5	8	12	27	45	-18	23
Sutherland Shire	25	5	6	14	22	40	-18	21
Penrith Panthers	25	6	2	17	24	46	-22	20

## PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	125	87	21	17	259	87	172	282
Olympic Sharks	125	74	25	26	243	110	133	247
Marconi Stallions	124	65	24	35	222	146	76	219
Wollongong Wolves	125	64	26	35	219	154	65	218
Parramatta Eagles	124	60	23	41	189	142	47	203
Northern Spirit	125	58	20	47	232	171	61	194
Newcastle United	125	48	31	46	171	166	5	175
Central Coast	125	42	30	53	153	181	-28	156
Sydney United	125	41	26	58	154	192	-38	149
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	130	41	20	69	138	242	-104	143
Bankstown City	125	36	28	61	124	194	-70	136
Sutherland Shire	125	31	27	67	137	204	-67	120
Southern Branch YL	130	32	22	76	138	301	-163	118
Penrith Panthers	125	28	21	76	126	215	-89	105

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 26:

**GRADE 12:** Hills United 4 St George 1, Blacktown Association 0 Macarthur Rams 1, Nepean Association 0 AC United 2, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 7, Northern Tigers 2 Camden Tigers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Fairfield Bulls 0, Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs 1.

**GRADE 13:** Hills United 0 St George 2, Blacktown Association 0 Macarthur Rams 0, Nepean Association 1 AC United 2, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Northern Tigers 4 Camden Tigers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Fairfield Bulls 0, Mingara Lakers 3 Eastern Suburbs 2.

**GRADE 14:** Hills United 1 St George 2, Blacktown Association 0 Macarthur Rams 3, Nepean Association 6 AC United 2, Hajduk Wanderers 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Northern Tigers 0 Camden Tigers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Fairfield Bulls 2, Mingara Lakers 1 Eastern Suburbs 3.

**GRADE 15:** Hills United 0 St George 0, Blacktown Association 2 Macarthur Rams 1, Nepean Association 1 AC United 1, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 3, Northern Tigers 1 Camden Tigers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Fairfield Bulls 2, Mingara Lakers 0 Eastern Suburbs 1.

**GRADE 17:** Hills United 0 St George 0, Blacktown Association 2 Macarthur Rams 2, Nepean Association 1 AC United 4, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Northern Tigers 1 Camden Tigers 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Fairfield Bulls 1, Mingara Lakers 0 Eastern Suburbs 1.

## RESCHEDULED GAME: ROUND 14:

**GRADE 17:** Northern Tigers 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2.

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manly Warringah	25	18	6	1	59	11	48	60
Northern Tigers	25	19	3	3	63	18	45	60
AC United	25	19	3	3	71	28	43	60
Macarthur Rams	25	14	6	5	46	27	19	48
Eastern Suburbs	25	12	7	6	54	30	24	43
Blacktown Assoc.	25	10	8	7	28	18	10	38
Nepean Association	25	10	4	11	33	28	5	34
Hills United	25	10	1	14	29	37	-8	31
Camden Tigers	25	7	8	10	23	36	-13	29
Bonnyrigg WE	25	6	9	10	20	25	-5	27
St George	25	7	5	13	29	48	-19	26
Mingara Lakers	25	5	2	18	20	62	-42	17
Fairfield Bulls	25	3	2	20	21	69	-48	11
Hajduk Wanderers	25	2	2	21	15	74	-59	8

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC United	25	18	5	2	63	23	40	59
Nepean Association	25	18	4	3	51	16	35	58
Macarthur Rams	25	13	8	4	53	20	33	47
Blacktown Assoc.	25	14	5	6	57	27	30	47
Manly Warringah	25	13	4	8	41	28	13	43
Hills United	25	10	4	11	43	47	-4	34
Northern Tigers	25	10	4	11	32	38	-6	34
Eastern Suburbs	25	10	4	11	40	49	-9	34
St George	25	9	6	10	34	35	-1	33
Fairfield Bulls	25	8	9	8	28	33	-5	33
Mingara Lakers	25	9	3	13	32	51	-19	24
Camden Tigers	25	6	2	17	32	50	-18	20
Hajduk Wanderers	25	3	3	19	19	54	-35	12
Bonnyrigg WE	25	1	5	19	19	73	-54	8

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Association	25	19	4	2	57	13	44	61
Northern Tigers	25	14	7	4	43	20	23	49
Hajduk Wanderers	25	14	4	7	47	21	26	46
Eastern Suburbs	25	12	6	7	47	28	19	42
AC United	25	11	6	8	38	39	-1	39
Camden Tigers	25	11	6	8	37	38	-1	39
Fairfield Bulls	25	11	5	9	37	34	3	38
Macarthur Rams	25	11	4	10	38	33	5	37
Bonnyrigg WE	25	11	4	10	28	36	-8	37
Manly Warringah	25	10	4	11	45	45	0	34
Blacktown Assoc.	25	6	5	14	29	45	-16	23
St George	25	5	8	12	18	46	-28	23
Mingara Lakers	25	6	2	17	23	45	-22	14
Hills United	25	0	3	22	11	55	-44	3

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	25	18	1	6	53	20	33	55
Eastern Suburbs	25	17	3	5	48	22	26	54
Manly Warringah	25	17	2	6	38	16	22	53
St George	25	12	7	6	39	28	11	43
Hills United	25	12	6	7	28	15	13	42
Nepean Association	25	10	7	8	34	27	7	37

## NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE MATCH OF THE ROUND

# SYDNEY CS SLIP AT FINAL HURDLE!

	<b>AC United</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Sydney Crescent Star</b>	<b>1</b>

by Greg Stock

The door to the Winter Super League Premiership trophy has been thrown open to Fraser Park after league leaders Crescent Star were beaten 2-1 by AC United at Abruzzi Field on Sunday.

unlikely victory against one of the league genuine heavyweights.

Adopting a physical approach to the match, AC started the game on the best footing when Vincenzo Sansone broke free down the right hand side to bury a shot from a tight angle. Maytham Abdal manufactured a brilliant pass from wide

rated opponents, AC kept harassing and tackling hard, clearly unsettling Crescent Star's build-up play.

"Our plan was to press them in the midfield and to make sure they didn't have any opportunity to get into our penalty box and shoot" said AC United coach Nick Porecca.

"We did our homework and knew that if we played a bustling style of game we could upset them and the boys did an outstanding job to see that through to the letter."

Robbie Grubba and the Giometti brothers, Rick and Chris, were the real heroes, getting through a mountain of work as they laid siege to Balabel, Huseyin Bayhan and Hussein Jomaa. Marking up man for man in defence, they didn't allow Crescent Star an opportunity to shoot from inside the AC penalty box. The visitors obliged by chancing their arm from distance, unable to break down the tough AC backline.

The only time the home side faltered was on the hour mark when Balabel was able to slip in at the back post unmarked, and nod home a cross from Hulusi Orhan, wide, on the right. This goal celebration brought Balabel undone with a second yellow card.

Sydney CS goalkeeper Steve Tolios pulled out a heroic save to deny Chris Giometti from the penalty spot ten minutes later. Tayfun Devrimol had brought down Chris Giometti just inside the penalty box, giving Pearce no option but to point to the spot.

on the left that enabled Sansone to slip in behind Askin Oygur and Unal Ogmen to beat off the challengers with speed.

Conceding the greater share of possession and field position to their higher-

**AC UNITED:** Claudio Fernandez, Robbie Grubba, Michael McGovern (Domenic Oliverio 32'), Robert Sacco, Chris Giometti, Rick Giometti, Vincenzo Sansone, Johnny Ghiso, Maytham Abdal (Kris Holbrook 77'), Ray Mandic (Adrian Zambo 50').  
Coach: Nick Porecca.

**SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR:** Steve Tolios, Evangelos Petratos, Unal Ogmen (Phil Marzec 72'), Askin Oygur, Tayfun Devrimol, Terry Atsas, Yavus Ekinici, Tanju Balabel, Hulusi Orhan (Volkan Kir 77'), Huseyin Bayhan (Joe Bruni 65'), Hussein Jomaa.  
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak.

**Yellow Cards:** R.Giometti 7' Bayhan 52' Balabel 48' 60' Devrimol 72' Jomaa 77' Oygur 85'

**Red Card:** Balabel 60'

**Referee:** Craig Pearce  
**Assistant Referees:** Greg Leadbeatter and Richard Baker



The winning goal came seven minutes from time, when Rick Giometti was able to put away a rebound from a Johnny Ghiso free kick that hit the cross bar.

"The boys did exceptionally well today and I am very proud for the way they put their bodies on the line and played a solid ninety minutes," said Porecca.

"Crescent Star are an exceptionally hard side to beat and full credit to them for the way in which they came at us, even with ten men. But this win will give us a lot of confidence going into the semi-finals and knowing we can match it with the very best sides in the league."

Having led the competition since round one Crescent Star now face the real possibility of losing the premiership trophy to Fraser Park in the final match. In the 'return leg' at Lidcombe Oval this Sunday, a win will guarantee Crescent Star the Premiership trophy, a draw or loss enough to keep the door open for second-placed Fraser Park Dragons, prowling a point behind.



Vincenzo Sansone (left) is congratulated by team-mates after he scored AC United's opening goal

### NSW FIRST DIVISION

## Northern Tigers Crowned Premiers

with Paul Goodwin

The First Division regular season reached a nail-biting conclusion this weekend.

Being the final round, all of the games were staged on Sunday and there were some very anxious supporters hanging around waiting for other results to come in.

The clashes that determined the Premiership took place in Wollongong and Hornsby, and the mobile phones rang hot between these far-flung soccer fields.

Down in the 'Gong, Hurstville ZSC were well aware that, no matter how many goals they were ahead of Wollongong United, it was the team's draw at Bathurst a few weeks earlier that would come back to haunt them, if league leaders Northern Tigers leaders did indeed beat Bathurst at home.

Richard Plesa got things going early for ZSC with a 35-yard pile driver and the experienced defender added a second in the 40th, after Joe Badrov had made it 2-0 in the 37th.

Luke Glavas chimed in with two as well, either side of half time, to complete a solid against the unpredictable Wollongong side. But it was to prove all in vain, this 5-0 win on the south coast.

Meanwhile, there had been some anxious moments for Northern Tigers coach, Fred Mesiti and his crew, up at Parklands Oval, where Bathurst clawed their way back to be only 2-1 down at half time.

That meant the home team had to dig deep to preserve their slender lead.

Matt Hunter had given the Tigers the lead in the 11th and Mount Kuring-gai's own Scott Ryan increased that slender early lead to 2-0 in the 33rd, before David Baillie pulled one back for Bathurst just seconds before the break.

The second half saw the Tigers still well on top but unable to hit that extra goal to make the game completely safe, though at the finish they had hung on anyway to win 2-1 and take the title on their own turf.

The victory brings back memories of earlier triumphs by Ku-ring-gai and later North Shore United, who also won the corresponding division many times in the 70s and late 80s.

Roll on the semi-finals!



SOCCER NSW

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## Debt warning for Italian clubs

Italy's professional soccer clubs owe 500 million euros (£350million) in unpaid tax and pension contributions, financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore said last week.

The paper's investigation into cash-strapped clubs from the top three divisions included interest and fines on the debt and showed the hardest hit are in Serie B and C.

Lia Ghisani, president of Italian pensions body Enpals, told the paper half of the Serie

A clubs had settled their debts with Enpals while the other half were locked into a five-year repayment scheme.

But Serie A clubs still face serious debt problems in other areas with a December 11 Sole report showing they had a combined operating loss of 948 million euros for the season 2001-2002.

The most recent figures from consultants Deloitte and Touche put the total debt in tax and pensions for Serie A clubs

by the the end of the 2001-2002 season at about three million euros.

Italian football is also dealing with accusations that four clubs, including Serie A side AS Roma, presented forged bank guarantees as part of their registration for next season.

The club has denied any wrongdoing and the public prosecutor of Rome has launched an investigation into the affair.

## Nike give Juventus shirt shrift

Juventus will be unable to sell replicas of their Champions League jersey this season thanks to their sponsorship deal with a Libyan oil company.

The Italian champions' shirts for Europe's premier club competition and for the Italian Cup feature the logo of Libyan-owned Tamoil.

But American sportswear manufacturers Nike say they cannot produce shirts featuring the company's logo due to U.S. sanctions against the African country.

'Nike Inc. cannot produce, distribute or sell Juventus Football Club uniforms

with the Tamoil logo on it, because Tamoil is listed as a prohibited entity in the sanctions regulations,' said Charlie Brooks, spokesman for Nike in Europe.



The new Nike Juve kit for the domestic Serie A championship, featuring a return to traditional narrow stripes and

white shorts, is available as it is sponsored by an Italian company Fastweb.

Juve wore Tamoil sponsored shirts in last year's Champions League, in which they finished as losing finalists, but as those shirts were produced by Italian company Lotto, the sanctions did not have an impact.

Since 1986 U.S. citizens and companies have had trade and commerce with Libya restricted by sanctions.

Al-Saadi Gaddafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi is a member of Juve's board and the Libyan company LAFICO has a 7.5 percent share in the Turin club.

## Poyet breaks wrist



Gus Poyet will be out of action for club Tottenham in the English Premier League.

Uruguayan midfielder Gus Poyet could be out of action for six weeks with a fractured wrist.

The 35-year-old, who is already suspended for the opening three games of the new season, was injured in the clubs goalless friendly with Sporting Lisbon at White Hart Lane.

Poyet's injury is the sort of news coach Glenn Hoddle could have done without.

German midfielder Christian Ziege has already been ruled out for a longer period following a recurrence of a thigh injury which last season threatened his career - and much worse.

There was even a possibility of amputation when doctors had to perform two operations after the former Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Liverpool defender was injured against Charlton last Christmas.

He came back at the end of last term as a substitute in the final game against Blackburn but hit painful problems again during pre-season work. What was supposed to be a routine check on his condition discovered that muscles had stuck together in his thigh.

"It is very disappointing because after six months out I'm now going to be out for another long spell," said Ziege.

# UEFA backs Euro-ban for hoonos

European football's governing body UEFA welcomed on Tuesday draft European Union plans to ban hooligans from stadiums in Europe, saying any steps to deter troublemakers from soccer were always appreciated.

National police forces within the 15-nation EU already cooperate closely to stop known hooligans from travelling to international matches. Current EU president Italy believes the proposed ban would strengthen this cooperation further.

'In principle, UEFA supports any initiative which

would help to stop known football hooligans from being able to move from country to country or competition to competition,' said UEFA spokesman Rob Faulkner.

Under the proposals drafted by Rome, anyone already banned from attending a stadium match in his or her own country would also be banned from any venue in Europe where an international fixture was being played.

Stadium bans already exists in some EU states, including Britain where police officials said it had proved very useful.

'A stadium ban would

have an effect. It would tighten up controls and act as a deterrent,' said a spokesman for the British Association of Chief Police Officers.

In Britain, known hooligans are not only denied access to stadiums inside the country, but also asked to

hand over their passports ahead of international matches played overseas.

The proposed ban was sent to EU member governments in late July, just before the start of the European soccer season, and should be discussed by EU justice ministers later this year.

Getting approval for the draft proposals is one of the priorities of the six-month Italian presidency, which is headed by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi - who owns European soccer champions AC Milan.

## English League Cup Results

Boston . . . . .1	Reading . . . . .3
Bristol City . . . . .4	Swansea . . . . .1
(after extra time. 90 min 1-1)	
Coventry . . . . .2	Peterborough . . . . .0
Ipswich . . . . .1	Kidderminster . . . . .0
(after extra time)	
Mansfield . . . . .1	Sunderland . . . . .2
Sheffield Wed . . . . .2	Hartlepool . . . . .2
(after extra time. 90 min 1-1. Hartlepool won 5-4 on penalties)	
West Ham . . . . .3	R & Diamonds . . . . .1
Barnsley . . . . .1	Blackpool . . . . .2
Bradford . . . . .0	Darlington . . . . .0
Bristol Rovers . . . . .0	Brighton . . . . .1
Barnsley . . . . .1	Blackpool . . . . .2
Bradford . . . . .0	Darlington . . . . .0
Bristol Rovers . . . . .0	Brighton . . . . .1
Cambridge Utd . . . . .1	Gillingham . . . . .2
Cardiff . . . . .4	Leyton Orient . . . . .1
Cheltenham . . . . .1	QPR . . . . .2
Chesterfield . . . . .0	Burnley . . . . .0
Colchester . . . . .2	Plymouth . . . . .1
Crewe . . . . .2	Wrexham . . . . .0
Doncaster . . . . .3	Grimsby . . . . .2
Huddersfield . . . . .2	Derby . . . . .1
Lincoln City . . . . .0	Stockport . . . . .1
Luton . . . . .4	Yeovil . . . . .1
Macclesfield . . . . .1	Sheff Utd . . . . .2
Millwall . . . . .0	Oxford Utd . . . . .1
Northampton . . . . .1	Norwich . . . . .0
Port Vale . . . . .0	Nottm Forest . . . . .0
Preston . . . . .0	Notts County . . . . .0
Rotherham . . . . .2	York . . . . .1
Scunthorpe . . . . .2	Oldham . . . . .1
Southend . . . . .2	Swindon . . . . .3
Torquay . . . . .1	Crystal Palace . . . . .1
Tranmere . . . . .1	Bury . . . . .0
Walsall . . . . .2	Carlisle . . . . .1
West Brom . . . . .4	Brentford . . . . .0
Wigan . . . . .2	Hull . . . . .0
Wymcombe . . . . .2	Wimbledon . . . . .0

### Champions League

Third qualifying round, first leg

Rangers (SCO) 1	FC Copenhagen (DEN) 1
Partizan Belgrade (SEM) 0	Newcastle (ENG) 1
MTK Budapest (HUN) 0	Celtic (SCO) 4
Zilina (SVK) 0	Chelsea (ENG) 2
Rosenborg (NOR) 0	Deportivo La Coruna (SPA) 0
Grasshopper Zurich (SWI) 1	AEK Athens (GRE) 0
Vardar (MKD) 2	Sparta Prague (CZE) 3
Club Brugge (BEL) 2	Borussia Dortmund (GER) 1
Anderlecht (BEL) 3	Wisla Krakow (POL) 1
Austria Vienna (AUT) 0	Marseille (FRA) 1
Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) 1	Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS) 0
Galatasaray (TUR) 3	CSKA Sofia (BUL) 0
Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 3	Dynamo Zagreb (CRO) 1
Graz AK (AUT) 1	Ajax (NED) 1
Celta Vigo (Spain) 3	Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) 0

### Uefa Cup

First Round First Leg

Haka (FIN) 2	Hadjuk Split (CRO) 1
Valletta (MLT) 0	Neuchatel Xamax (SWI) 2
Sarajevo (BIH) 1	Sartid (SEM) 1

### Intertoto Cup

Finals First Leg

Schalke 04 (GER) 2	SV Pasching (AUT) 0
Heerenveen (NED) 1	Villarreal (SPA) 2

## Coach must 'beg' Anelka to play

MANCHESTER City striker Nicolas Anelka says France coach Jacques Santini will have to beg before he considers returning to the national side.

"If he gets down on his knees in front of me and says 'sorry,' then I'll think about it afterward," Anelka was quoted as saying in Paris Match magazine.

Anelka, 24, has not played for France since April 2002. In November, he quit Les Bleus when Santini selected him only after injury ruled out Lyon's Sidney Govou.

Anelka saw the decision as a lack of respect because he was in great form for City at the time.

"I don't need the French team, what I achieve with Manchester satisfies me," said Anelka.

"I have nothing against the France players, they are my friends - it's the system that sickens me," he said.

"I'm not going to force myself to kiss



Nicolas Anelka wants an apology by French coach Jacques Santini in order for him to play for the National Team once again.

up to anyone."

Under City coach Kevin Keegan, Anelka seems finally to have settled down after spells at Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool.

"He (Keegan) is excellent, he doesn't take himself too seriously," said Anelka. "That's the way to progress. If you take yourself too seriously you stagnate, you no longer try things."

Anelka scored 14 times last season as City placed ninth in the English premiership.

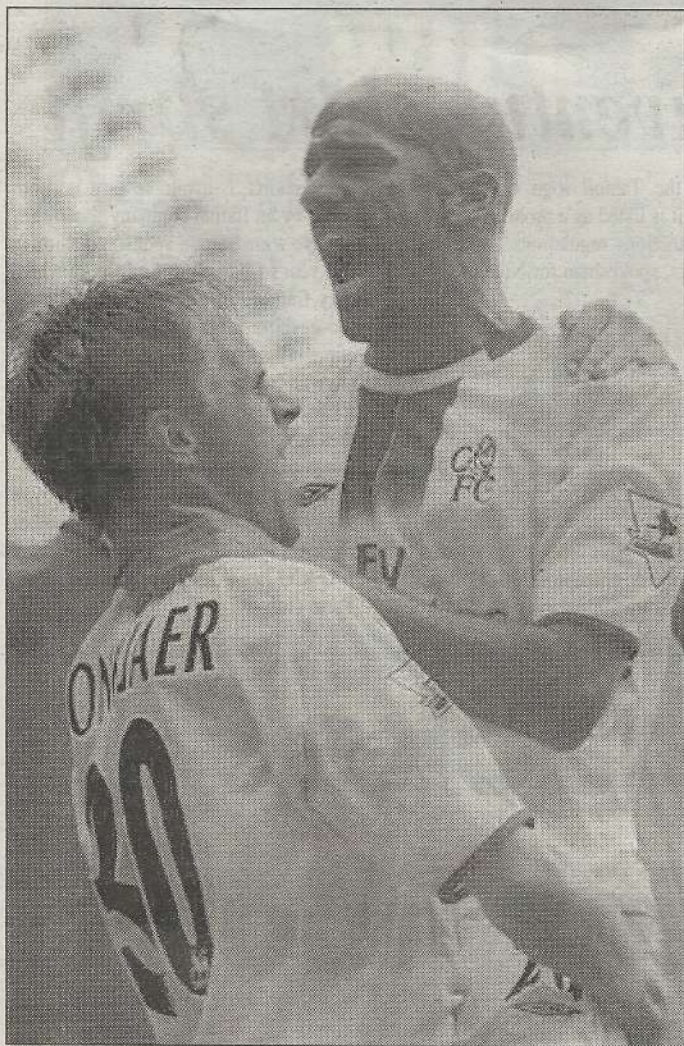
Anelka, who grew up in the Paris suburb of Trappes, said he is happier in England and remains bitter about the way fans treated him during his two years at PSG (2000-2002).

"In France, people are jealous. They don't like success," he was quoted as saying.

"I don't like the French mentality. The same people who insult me then ask me for an autograph."



# ENGLISH



Chelsea's Juan Sebastián Verón (right) celebrates his opening goal at Anfield with team mate Jesper Grønkjær.

## LIVERPOOL 1 CHELSEA 2

Chelsea's amazing pre-season spending spree has paid immediate dividends following a superb 2-1 victory at Liverpool thanks to a late winner by substitute Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

New Signing Juan Sebastian Veron put the visitors ahead after 25 minutes and held on to their slender lead until the 79th minute.

Liverpool striker Michael Owen looked to have a penalty however he was given a re-take and duly converted the square it up at 1-1.

But Hasselbaink signalled he will fight for his place amid all the new arrivals at Chelsea when he sped on to a through ball and beat Jerzy Dudek to score the winner three minutes from time, securing Chelsea's third win at Anfield since World War Two.

## LEEDS 2 NEWCASTLE 2

Title aspirants Newcastle United salvaged a valuable point from their visit to Elland Road with Alan Shearer bagging a brace against Leeds United.

Shearer pounced after 88 minutes to avert a disappointing defeat for Bobby Robson's team.

The 33-year-old former England captain put Newcastle ahead from the penalty spot in the first half before Australian Mark Viduka and strike partner Alan Smith gave Leeds a 2-1 advantage.

## MAN. UNITED 4 BOLTON 0

Champions Manchester United began the new Premiership season in fine form with an emphatic 4-0 victory at home to

Bolton Wanderers. Welsh winger Ryan Giggs opened the scoring shortly before half-time with a spectacular free-kick from long range, curling the ball into the net off a post.

United then had to wait until the 74th minute to double their lead as Giggs added a second and further goals from Paul Scholes and Van Nistelrooy sealed the win.

## ARSENAL 2 EVERTON 1

Last season's runners-up Arsenal recorded a home win on the opening day after downing Everton 2-1 at Highbury.

Arsenal had to earn the three points the hard way, losing defender Sol Campbell to a 26th-minute red card for a professional foul on Thomas Gravesen.

Nonetheless the Gunners took the lead nine minutes later as Thierry Henry converted from the penalty spot.

Robert Pires extended the lead 13 minutes into the second half, before Everton set up a nervy finish as Tomasz Radzinski pulled a goal back with six minutes to play. The visitors also ended the game with ten men after the dismissal of Li Tie.

## CHARLTON 0 MAN. CITY 3

Goals by Frenchmen Nicolas Anelka and Antoine Sibierski and Chinese international Sun Jihai gave Manchester City an emphatic 3-0 victory at Charlton Athletic.

South African defender Mark Fish was sent off in the second half for Charlton, who were without new Italian signing Paolo Di Canio because he is not yet match fit.

## PORTSMOUTH 2 ASTON VILLA 1

Promoted Portsmouth began their first season in the top flight with a deserved 2-1 win against Aston Villa at Fratton Park.

Goals from Teddy Sheringham and Patrik Berger gave last season's first division champions a 2-0 lead, and although Gareth Barry pulled a goal back six minutes from time from the penalty spot, before being given his marching orders three minutes from time.

## BIRMINGHAM 1 TOTTENHAM 0

Birmingham City secured a 1-0 victory against Tottenham Hotspur, with David Dunn scoring the only goal of the game after 36 minutes from the penalty spot after Anthony Gardner had fouled Robbie Savage. Socceroo Stan Lazaridis was on the Birmingham bench but did not see any game time.

## BLACKBURN 5 WOLVES 1

Two goals from Andy Cole and one each from new signings Lorenzo Amoroso, David Thompson and Australian Brett Emerton helped Blackburn Rovers to a comprehensive 5-1 win against newly promoted Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Rovers led 2-0 at the break before Emerton drilled a drive into the top-right of goal for his first goal in English football.

Steffen Iversen pulled one back for the visitors before Cole struck twice late on.

## LEICESTER 2 SOUTHAMPTON 2

Early goals from Paul Dickov, a penalty, and Les Ferdinand seemed to have given Leicester City all three points against Southampton at The Walkers Stadium, but goals in the final 15 minutes from new signing Kevin Phillips and James Beattie gave the away side a point. Phillips played an instrumental role in the Saints game and looks set to blossom with coach Gordon Strachan.



Ryan Giggs: Two-goal hero for Manchester United

## FULHAM 3 M'BROUGH 2

Fulham recovered from the setback of an early Carlos Marinelli goal to defeat Middlesbrough 3-2, with goals from Steve Marlet and Junichi Inamoto turning the match in the home side's favour.

Malcolm Christie then missed a penalty for Middlesbrough, and Luis Saha's 70th-minute strike made the game safe, despite Boro substitute Szilard Nemeth pulling a goal back nine minutes from time.

## PREMIER LEAGUE

Man. United 4 Bolton 0, Arsenal 2 Everton 1, Portsmouth 2 Aston villa 1, Birmingham 1 Tottenham 0, Blackburn 5 Wolves 1, Leicester 2 Southampton 2, Fulham 3 Middlesbrough 2, Charlton 0 Man City 3, Leeds 2 Newcastle Utd 2, Liverpool 1 Chelsea 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Man Utd	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Man City	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Fulham	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Chelsea	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Portsmouth	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Birmingham	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Leeds	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Leicester	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Newcastle	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Southampton	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Middlesbrough	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Aston Villa	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Everton	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Liverpool	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Tottenham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Charlton	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Wolverhampton	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
Bolton	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

## FIRST DIVISION

Cardiff 0 Bradford 2, Coventry 0 Walsall 0, Crewe 1 Ipswich 0, Crystal Palace 1 Watford 0, Gillingham 0 Derby 0, Norwich 2 Rotherham 0, Reading 3 Notts Forest 0, Stoke 2 Wimbledon 1, Sunderland 0 Millwall 1, West Brom 4 Burnley 1, West Ham 0, Sheffield Utd 0, Wigan 1 Preston 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Millwall	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Crystal Palace	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Reading	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Walsall	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Norwich	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Bradford	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
West Ham	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Wimbledon	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
West Brom	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Crewe	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Nottm Forest	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Gillingham	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Sheff Utd	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Coventry	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Preston	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Ipswich	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Wigan	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Cardiff	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Rotherham	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Derby	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
Watford	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sunderland	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Burnley	2	0	0	2	3	7	0

## SECOND DIVISION

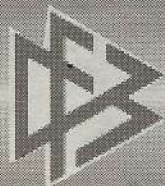
Blackpool 3 Wycombe 2, Bournemouth 2 Barnsley 2, Brentford 0 Peterborough 3, Chesterfield 1 Bristol City 1, Grimsby 1 Port Vale 2, Hartlepool 0 Tranmere 0, Notts County 0 Wrexham 1, Rushden & Diamonds 2 Plymouth 1, Sheffield Wed 2 Oldham 2, Stockport 1 Luton 2, Colchester 0 Swindon 1 (Brighton vs QPR - Tuesday AET).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Port Vale	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Bristol City	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Tranmere	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Sheff Wed	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Hartlepool	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Barnsley	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Wrexham	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
QPR	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Peterborough	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Brighton	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Swindon	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Wycombe	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Rushden & D'monds	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Blackpool	2	1	0	1	3	7	3
Chesterfield	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Bournemouth	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Grimsby	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Plymouth	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Oldham	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Stockport	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Colchester	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Brentford	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
Notts County	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

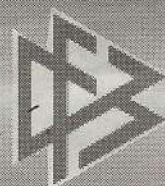
## FIXTURES

### Saturday 23 August

Aston Villa	v	Liverpool
Bolton	v	Blackburn
Chelsea	v	Leicester
Everton	v	Fulham
Man City	v	Portsmouth
Middlesbrough	v	Arsenal
Newcastle	v	Man Utd
Southampton	v	Birmingham
Tottenham	v	Leeds
Wolverhampton	v	Charlton



# German Bundesliga



**T**wo goals from German international striker Oliver Neuville has kept Bayer Leverkusen atop of the Bundesliga following a 4-0 drubbing of Hannover 96.

Brazilian forward Franca and midfielder Daniel Bierofka also struck for the 2002 Champions League finalists, who narrowly escaped relegation last season but have started the new campaign in style.

Franca showed Leverkusen the way after just 90 seconds before setting up Neuville, who doubled the advantage in the ninth minute.

Leverkusen kept the pressure on a limited Hannover side and Neuville was on target again in the 51st minute before Bierofka wrapped it up in the 72nd.

Leverkusen, the only side with maximum points from three games, are two points ahead of a group of four teams featuring champions Bayern Munich, who beat VfL Bochum 2-0.

An effort from close range by Peru striker Claudio

Pizarro and a superb free kick from Germany midfielder Sebastian Deisler in the space of six minutes midway through the first half gave Bayern a straight-forward victory over Bochum.

Dutch striker Roy Makaay, making his Bundesliga debut for the Bavarians, wasted a great chance in the 74th minute, firing straight at Bochum keeper Rein van Duijnhoven.

Borussia Dortmund retained second place with a comfortable 3-1 win over TSV 1860 Munich.

Two goals including a penalty from Brazilian striker Marcio Amoroso and an effort from Czech striker Jan Koller put the issue beyond doubt before Cameroon striker Francis Kioyo pulled one back for the visitors with three minutes left.

Bayern are in third place, one spot above Werder Bremen, who needed a second-half

goal from French playmaker Johan Micoud for a 1-0 win at Kaiserslautern - their first victory at the Betzenberg stadium in six years.

VfB Stuttgart, last season's runners-up, complete

the quartet of teams on seven points in fifth place after a 1-0 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach courtesy of a first-half goal from Brazilian striker Cacau.

Martin Max scored a hat-trick as Hansa Rostock defeated bottom side Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0, finding the target in the 18th and 54th minutes before completing his hat-trick with a 66th-minute penalty, while SC Freiburg earned a goalless draw away to Hertha Berlin.



Oliver Neuville: The Bayer Leverkusen striker celebrates a personal double in a comfortable win over Hannover 96.

Kaiserslautern 0 Werder Bremen 1, Mönchengladbach 0 Stuttgart 1, Hertha Berlin 0 Freiburg 0, Hansa Rostock 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Bayer Leverkusen 4 Hannover 0, Bayern Munich 2 Bochum 0, Dortmund 3 1860 Munich 1, VfL Wolfsburg 5 Hamburger 1, Schalke 2 Köln 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Leverkusen	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
2 Dortmund	3	2	1	0	9	3	7
3 Bayern	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
4 Bremen	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
5 Stuttgart	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
6 Wolfsburg	3	2	0	1	8	7	6
7 Schalke	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
8 Hansa	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9 M'gladbach	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
10 Hannover	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
11 1860 München	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
12 Freiburg	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
13 Hertha	3	0	2	1	0	3	2
14 Bochum	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
15 Hamburg	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
16 Kaiserslautern	3	1	0	2	2	3	0
17 Köln	3	0	0	3	2	5	0
18 Eintracht	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

## FIXTURES

23rd August, 2003

Hannover - Hansa Rostock

Frankfurt - Hertha Berlin

Freiburg - M'gladbach

VfB Stuttgart - Kaiserslautern

Werder Bremen - Schalke

FC Cologne - B.Dortmund

1860 Munich - Wolfsburg

Hamburg SV - B.Munich

Bochum - B.Leverkusen



# Dutch Eredivisie



**A**late goal from teenager Wesley Sneijder helped AFC Ajax make a promising start to the new Eredivisie season, sealing a 2-1 victory against Vitesse.

The match looked headed for a draw, but 19-year-old Sneijder underlined his potential by popping up at the death to make the difference.

An own goal from Purrel Fränkel had levelled proceedings midway through the first half after Matthew Amoah put Vitesse ahead with a fine effort in the 14th minute.

Feyenoord also came out on top of their encounter with NEC Nijmegen 2-1, struggling in the first half before new signing Danko Lazovic broke the deadlock seven minutes after the interval.

With a quarter of an hour to go, Belgian international Thomas Buffel doubled the lead. NEC captain Rob Wilaert pulled one back from the penalty spot in injury time.

PSV Eindhoven's pacey striker Mateja Kezman bagged a brace of goals against Roda JC but the Eredivisie Champions were held to a 2-2 draw in Kerkrade.

Roda finished the game with nine men after having Eric Addo and Fatih Sonkaya sent off in the second half but they still managed to hold on for the point.

Kezman opened the scoring after just 11 minutes but Roda were back on level terms seven minutes before half time courtesy of a Yannis Anastasiou penalty.

The home side went into the break ahead when Kevin Van Dessel scored after 44 minutes before Kezman pulled the champions level with 55 minutes on the clock.

FC Volendam, meanwhile, were defeated 1-0 at home by SC Heerenveen, Stefan Selakovic converting a penalty after 29 minutes in a match in which Gijs Luijck was shown the red card late on.

Elsewhere, FC Utrecht defeated FC Zwolle 1-0 thanks to a goal from full-back Patrick Zwaanswijk, while Regilio Vrede celebrated his return to the Netherlands with the vital strike in FC Groningen's 1-0 victory over NAC Breda.

FC Twente kicked off their campaign in confident style with a 3-1 victory over RBC Roosendaal. Trailing at half-time after Brazilian Tininho's 24th-minute strike, Sjaak Polak equalised early in the second half. Kim Christensen and Blaise N'Kufo scored

in the final 15 minutes to seal victory.

Willem II Tilburg also started the season with a win as Joris Mathijssen scored the only goal against AZ Alkmaar.

Iwan Redan's goal midway through the second half handed RKC Waalwijk victory against promoted ADO Den Haag.



Ajax's Wesley Sonck (left) battles with Purrel Fränkel of SBV Vitesse.

Twente Enschede 3 Roosendaal 1, Waalwijk 1 Den Haag 0, Willem II 1 Alkmaar 0, Roda JC 2 PSV Eindhoven 2, Groningen 1 NAC Breda 0, Utrecht 1 Zwolle 0, Volendam 0 Heerenveen 1, Feyenoord 2 NEC 1, Vitesse 1 Ajax 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Twente	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
2 Ajax	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
3 Feyenoord	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
4 Heerenveen	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
5 Groningen	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
6 Utrecht	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7 Waalwijk	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
8 Willem II	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
9 PSV	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
10 Roda	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
11 NEC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
12 Vitesse	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
13 Den Haag	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
14 Alkmaar	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15 Volendam	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
16 Zwolle	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
17 NAC	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
18 Roosendaal	1	0	0	1	1	3	0



## Scottish Premier League

**H**ibernian has joined defending champions Rangers at the top of the Scottish premier league after Garry O'Connor scored a stoppage-time winner in their 1-0 win over Edinburgh rivals Hearts at Easter Road.

Hibernian, who like Rangers have six points out of six, achieved their win despite playing most of the match with 10 men after Grant Brebner was sent off eight minutes before half-time.

Rangers came back from behind to defeat Aberdeen 3-2 on a day at Pittodrie.

Goals from Ronald de Boer, Mikel Arteta and Michael Mols proved significant, coming as they did between Australian David Zdrilic's opener and a later strike from substitute Eric Deloumeaux.

The game also featured a brawl between both sets of players and the arrest of a fan for running on to the pitch with the apparent goal of reaching Rangers midfielder Fernando Ricksen.

Glasgow rivals Celtic bounced back from last week's disappointing draw at Dunfermline with a 5-0 thrashing of Dundee United at Parkhead.

The home side never looked back after striker Shaun Maloney converted Henrik Larsson's astute pass after 12 minutes.

Defender Didier Agathe and Alan Thompson bagged goals in the opening 45 minutes before Jackie McNamara and the irrepressible Larsson rounded out the scoring.

Kilmarnock bounced back from an opening round thumping to down Partick 2-1 despite trailing at the break.

James Grady's first Partick goal put the visitors 1-0 up ten minutes before half time however goals to Martin Hardie and Kris Boyd gave the hosts all three points.

At Livingston, substitute Derek Lilley scored on his home debut to see off Motherwell 1-0 while Dunfermline won 2-0 at Dundee.



Austin McCann of Hearts (left) battles with Hibernian's Garry O'Connor

Aberdeen 2 Rangers 3, Celtic 5 Dundee Utd 0, Kilmarnock 2 Partick 1, Livingston 1 Motherwell 0, Dundee 0 Dunfermline 2, Hibernian 1 Hearts 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Rangers	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
2 Hibernian	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
3 Celtic	2	1	1	0	5	0	4
4 Dunfermline	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
5 Livingston	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
6 Dundee	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
7 Hearts	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
8 Kilmarnock	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
9 Partick	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
10 Aberdeen	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
11 Motherwell	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
12 Dundee Utd	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

## Belgian First Division

**B**elgian champions Club Bruges beat local rivals Cercle Bruges 2-0, moving into a share of the Belgian First Division lead with Anderlecht.

Peruvian Andres Mendoza put them ahead in the eighth minute and Cercle faced an uphill battle when forward Berthe Mohamed was sent off five minutes before half-time after conceding a penalty which was converted by Timmy Simons.

Mons-Bergen drew 3-3 at home with Mouscron. Mbo Mpenza seemed to have won it for the visitors with a late goal but there was still time for Mons defender Mustapha Douai to grab an injury-time equaliser.

Standard Liege scraped a 1-0 home win against Excelsior Mouscron thanks to Mohammed Datti's goal seven minutes from time.

Anderlecht continued their early season form with a resounding 3-1 win away at Ghent.

Without Serbian striker Neman Jestrovic, who could be out for at least two months with a leg injury, the Brussels team repeated their performance against Antwerp last week to claim all three points.

Teen Swedish sensation Christian Wilhelmsson opened the scoring for the visitors after just four minutes however the favourites were pegged back when Steven Ribus levelled on the half hour.

Anderlecht proved the stronger team in the second half and clinched victory with goals from Walter Baseggio and Aruna Dindane.

Racing Genk managed a 2-0 win at home against Charleroi with Cedric Roussel and Gambian Soley Seyfo the scorers.

The biggest victory of the day went to St

Truiden who hammered Beveren 4-1 despite going a goal behind.

Midfielder Kris Buvens equalised just before half-time and the second half belonged to the visitors with goals from Desire Mbonabucya, Claude Kalisa and Marcos Pereira.

Ghent 1 Anderlecht 3 Royal Antwerp 2  
Westerlo 1 Beveren 1 St Truiden 4 La  
Louvriere 2 Heusden-Zolder 0 Racing Genk 2  
Charleroi 0, Cercle Bruges 0 Club Bruges 2,  
Standard Liege 1 Lokeren 0, Mons-Bergen 3  
Mouscron 3. (Lierse vs Germinal Beerschot  
— Tuesday AET)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Anderlecht	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
2. Club Bruges	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
3. St Truiden	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
4. La Louviere	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
5. Standard L	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
6. Racing Genk	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
7. Germinal B	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
8. Lierse	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
9. Ghent	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
10. R. Antwerp	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
11. E. Mouscron	2	0	2	0	5	5	2
12. Mons-Bergen	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
13. Westerlo	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
14. Lokeren	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
15. Cercle Bruges	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
16. Heusden-Zolder	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
17. Charleroi	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
18. Beveren	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

## French Ligue 1

**A**n injury-time goal by substitute Olivier Thomert gave RC Lens a surprise 2-1 home win over title favourites Olympique Marseille.

Marseille, who were chasing a third consecutive win, remain sixth in the standings three points behind Ligue 1 leaders Lille, the only team with maximum points after three matches.

The visitors went in front when striker Didier Drogba headed home a corner in the 11th minute before Lens equalised through Senegal midfielder Boubou Diop 10 minutes later.

AC Ajaccio 1 Nantes 3, Auxerre 3 Strasbourg 2, Guingamp 1 Bordeaux 3, Le Mans 1 Nice 1, Metz 0 PSG 1, Monaco 2 Bastia 0, Montpellier 0 Lyon 2, Sochaux 1 Rennes 1, Toulouse 0 Lille 3, Lens 2 Marseille 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Lille	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
2 Nice	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
3 Nantes	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
4 Lyon	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
5 Monaco	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
6 Marseille	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
7 Ajaccio	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
8 Rennes	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
9 Strasbourg	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
10 Sochaux	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
11 PSG	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
12 Lens	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
13 Montpellier	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
14 Metz	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
15 Auxerre	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
16 Bordeaux	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
17 Mans	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
18 Toulouse	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
19 Bastia	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
20 Guingamp	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

One minute into injury time, Thomert, a second-half replacement, beat Marseille goalkeeper Vedran Runje with a long-range drive.

Lille sit on top following a commanding 3-0 victory over newly-promoted Toulouse.

Striker Vladimir Manchev did the damage for the visitors with a goal in each half and Philippe Brunel sealed the points with a 70th minute strike.

Le Mans are still waiting for their first win in Ligue 1 but came close in drawing 1-1 against a Nice side who had been top of the division at the start of play.

The home side had taken the lead through Fernando D'Amico but the south coast side hit back for a share of the spoils when Brazilian Pereira da Silva Everson hit back two minutes before the interval.

Lyon picked up an impressive 2-0 away victory against Montpellier thanks to a double first-half strike while PSG pulled off a narrow 1-0 win at Metz thanks to a Jerome Leroy strike.

Two goals in five minutes helped Monaco beat Bastia, Emmanuel Adebayor and Vassilis Zikos getting the goals, while Auxerre registered their first points of the season with a much-needed 3-2 victory over visitors Strasbourg.

Ajaccio suffered their first road loss in three starts with a 3-1 defeat by Nantes while Guingamp remained bottom of the ladder following a 3-1 home defeat by Bordeaux.



Auxerre's Kanga Akale celebrates his goal during a 3-2 at home against Strasbourg.

## Turkish Super League

**A** goal from midfielder Alioum Saidou helped Istanbulspor AS defeat Adanaspor 1-0 to stay top of the Turkish Super Liga.

Istanbulspor were forced to toil against their visitors but just before half-time, Saidou was decisive, latching on to a back-heeled pass from Alex Yordanov to slot in and preserve his side's 100 per cent record this season.

Defending champions Beşiktaş secured a narrow 1-0 defeat of Bursaspor to ensure victory in their

first home game of the campaign, captain Tayfur Havutçu collecting the only goal with a quality strike in the 20th minute.

Super League newcomers Rizespor took a point after their 1-1 draw with Denizlispor, who went ahead through a Timuçin Beyazıt free-kick. Rizespor replied through Murat Sozkesen's header nine minute from time and would have had a winner if Okan Öztürk's fine effort had not been denied by the post.

Ankaragücü, meanwhile, came from behind to run out 4-2 winners against Samsunspor.

The home team were 2-1 down at the break thanks to Serkan Aykut and Mehmet Nas, but Ramadan Ragap pulled one back and Hakan Keles equalised in the 61st minute. Ragap gave his team the edge with his second then Milton Do, of Samsunspor, wrapped up the victory by blundering in an own goal.

Fenerbahçe were relieved to get back on track following last week's three goal defeat by Istanbulspor, overcoming Trabzonspor 1-0 away from home.

Dutch striker Pierre van Hooijdonk's well-taken free-kick proved the difference, flying directly into the net in the 12th minute. Trabzonspor defender Oumar Dieng was sent off in the 68th minute after a challenge on the Dutchman.



Pierre van Hooijdonk: His free-kick proved to be the winner for his new club Fenerbahçe.

Elazığspor 0 Konyaspor 0, Diyarbakırspor 3  
Gençlerbirliği 2, Gaziantepspor 1  
Galatasaray 2, Malatyaspor 3 Akçaabat 1,  
Trabzonspor 0 Fenerbahçe 1, İstanbulspor 1  
Adanaspor 0, Beşiktaş 1 Bursaspor 0,  
Denizlispor 1 Rizespor 1, Ankaragücü 4  
Samsunspor 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 İstanbulspor	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
2 Beşiktaş	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
3 Malatyaspor	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
4 Galatasaray	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
5 Denizlispor	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
6 Rizespor	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
7 Elazığspor	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
8 Ankaragücü	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
9 Diyarbakırspor	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
10 Fenerbahçe	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
11 Konyaspor	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
12 Trabzonspor	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
13 Gaziantepspor	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
14 Bursaspor	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
15 Gençlerbirliği	2	0	0	2	4	6	0
16 Adanaspor	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
17 Samsunspor	2	0	0	2	3	7	0
18 Akçaabat	2	0	0	2	1	5	0



## UEFA European Football Awards

The UEFA European Football Awards recognise the elite footballing performances matching ability, skill and sportsmanship during the previous UEFA Champions League season.

Now entering its sixth year at the Monte Carlo Sporting Club, the Football Awards have become a regular fixture as they allow fans to relive memorable moments from European club football's premier competition.

This season, for the first time, uefa.com users will have the opportunity to decide one of the award winners on the night, by voting for the 'Goal of the season'. We have gathered nominees from polling on uefa.com throughout the season to provide you with 25 options. The winner of the award will be announced at the Football Awards ceremony on Thursday 28 August.

But uefa.com users will also have the possibility to participate in electing the most prestigious awards, namely the best goalkeeper, best defender, best midfielder, best forward and most valuable player from a list of players who have progressed beyond the group stages of last season's UEFA Champions League. Each member of UEFA's technical team - which includes top coaches like Marcello Lippi, Sir Alex Ferguson, Gérard Houllier, Giovanni Trapattoni and Rinus Michels - will make his selection and the collective vote of uefa.com users will be used to create an additional voting form - in this way, uefa.com has a seat at the technical team's table.

A poll will be held for each of the four categories - best goalkeeper, best defender, best midfielder and best forward - and a short list of five players will be named per position. The winners in each position will be announced at the Football Awards, and one of these will also be named 'Most valuable player'. In the event of a tie, the uefa.com users' collective result will hold the casting vote. Polling for the 2002/03 awards will close on Thursday 31 July and the short lists will be published prior to the Football Awards ceremony, which takes place on Thursday 28 August.

Other winners will also be announced at the Football Awards based on different criteria defined by UEFA such as Coach of the Year, the UEFA President's Lifetime Achievement Award and the ESM Golden Shoe.

### Nominations

#### List of nominees:

**Best goalkeeper:** Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus FC), Santiago Cañizares (Valencia CF), Iker Casillas (Real Madrid CF), Dida (AC Milan), Francesco Toldo (Internazionale FC)

**Best defender:** Roberto Ayala (Valencia CF), Frank de Boer (FC Barcelona), Fabio Cannavaro (Internazionale FC), Amedeo Carboni (Valencia CF), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid CF), Cristian Chivu (AFC Ajax), Alessandro Costacurta (AC Milan), Rio Ferdinand (Manchester United FC), Ciro Ferrara (Juventus FC), Fernando Hierro (Real Madrid CF), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Paolo Montero (Juventus FC), Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan), Michael Reiziger (FC Barcelona), Michel Salgado (Real Madrid CF), Lilian Thuram (Juventus FC), Javier Zanetti (Internazionale FC)

**Best midfielder:** Pablo Aimar (Valencia CF), Rubén Baraja (Valencia CF), David Beckham (Manchester United FC), Mauro Camoranesi (Juventus FC), Rui Costa (AC

Milan), Edgar Davids (Juventus FC), Emre Belözoğlu (Internazionale FC), Luis Enrique (FC Barcelona), Luís Figo (Real Madrid CF), Ryan Giggs (Manchester United FC), Claude Makelele (Real Madrid CF), Pavel Nedved (Juventus FC), Paul Scholes (Manchester United FC), Xavi Hernández (FC Barcelona), Cristiano Zanetti (Internazionale FC), Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid CF), Roy Keane (Manchester United FC)

**Best forward:** John Carew (Valencia CF), Hernán Crespo (Internazionale FC), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus FC), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (AFC Ajax), Filippo Inzaghi (AC Milan), Patrick Kluivert (FC Barcelona), Steven Pienaar (AFC Ajax), Raúl González (Real Madrid CF), Ronaldo (Real Madrid CF), Javier Saviola (FC Barcelona), Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan), David Trezeguet (Juventus FC), Andy van der Meyde (AFC Ajax), Ruud van Nistelrooij (Manchester United FC), Christian Vieri (Internazionale FC)



AC Milan's Paolo Maldini (left) and Real Madrid CF striker Ronaldo, both of whom have been included in the first list of nominees for the UEFA European Football Awards.

**Goal of the season:** Pablo Aimar (Valencia CF v Liverpool FC matchday one), Mauro Camoranesi (Feyenoord v Juventus FC matchday one), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (AFC Ajax v Olympique Lyonnais matchday one), Maksim Shatskiikh (FC Dynamo Kyiv v Newcastle United FC matchday one), Sonny Anderson (Internazionale FC v Olympique Lyonnais matchday three), Pavel Nedved (Juventus FC v FC Dynamo Kyiv matchday two), Filippo Inzaghi (FC Bayern München v AC Milan matchday three), Roy Makaay (RC Deportivo La Coruña v RC Lens matchday three), Michael Tamat (AC Milan v FC Bayern München matchday four), Hakan Yakin (Valencia CF v FC Basel matchday three), Raimondas Zutaš (Maccabi Haifa v Manchester United FC matchday five), Hernán Crespo (AFC Ajax v Internazionale FC matchday six), Diego Tristán (AC Milan v RC Deportivo La Coruña matchday six), Matias Almeyda (Newcastle United FC v Internazionale FC matchday seven), Alessandro Birindelli (RC Deportivo La Coruña v Juventus FC matchday seven), Thierry Henry (AS Roma v Arsenal FC matchday seven), Ruud van Nistelrooij (FC Basel v Manchester United FC matchday seven), Ryan Giggs (Juventus FC v Manchester United FC matchday ten), Raúl González (Real Madrid CF v AC Milan matchday eleven), Luís Figo (Real Madrid CF v Manchester United FC quarter-final, first leg), Pavel Nedved (FC Barcelona v Juventus FC quarter-final, second leg), Ronaldo (Manchester United FC v Real Madrid CF quarter-final, second leg) - 1st goal, Ronaldo (Manchester United FC v Real Madrid CF quarter-final, second leg) - 2nd goal, Ronaldo (Manchester United FC v Real Madrid CF quarter-final, second leg) - 3rd goal, Pavel Nedved (Juventus FC v Real Madrid CF semi-final, second leg).



## FIFA Women's World Ranking

1	USA (USA)	2169	1	0	31	Poland (POL)	1672	30	-1
2	Norway (NOR)	2159	2	0	32	Mexico (MEX)	1671	38	+1
3	Germany (GER)	2152	3	0	33	Portugal (POR)	1666	31	-2
4	China PR (CHN)	2110	4	0	34	Romania (ROM)	1650	34	0
5	Sweden (SWE)	2073	5	0	35	Argentina (ARG)	1624	38	+3
6	Brazil (BRA)	2036	6	0	36	Slovakia (SVK)	1616	35	-1
7	Korea DPR (PRK)	2004	7	0	37	Colombia (COL)	1615	-	-
8	Denmark (DEN)	1967	8	0	38	Ireland Republic (IRL)	1613	36	-2
9	France (FRA)	1963	9	0	39	Peru (PER)	1603	37	-2
10	Italy (ITA)	1943	10	0	40	Trinidad and Tobago (TRI)	1595	39	-1
11	Russia (RUS)	1899	11	0	41	Thailand (THA)	1587	40	-1
12	Canada (CAN)	1867	14	+2	42	Belarus (BLR)	1579	41	-1
13	England (ENG)	1860	12	-1	43	Vietnam SR (VIE)	1569	43	0
14	Japan (JPN)	1850	13	-1	44	Croatia (CRO)	1568	42	-2
15	Australia (AUS)	1839	16	+1	45	Costa Rica (CRC)	1550	44	-1
16	Netherlands (NED)	1814	15	-1	46	Myanmar (MYA)	1537	48	+2
17	Iceland (ISL)	1782	18	+1	47	Bulgaria (BUL)	1530	45	-2
18	Ukraine (UKR)	1779	17	-1	48	Austria (AUT)	1522	47	-1
19	Spain (ESP)	1767	22	+3	49	Uzbekistan (UZB)	1505	46	-3
20	Finland (FIN)	1761	20	0	50	Chile (CHI)	1487	-	-
21	New Zealand (NZL)	1759	21	0	51	Ecuador (ECU)	1472	-	-
22	Chinese Taipei (TPE)	1746	19	-3	52	Morocco (MAR)	1461	49	-3
23	Nigeria (NGA)	1738	23	0	53	Ghana (GHA)	1458	50	-3
24	Czech Republic (CZE)	1737	24	0	54	Haiti (HAI)	1457	51	-3
25	Korea Republic (KOR)	1727	28	+3	55	Wales (WAL)	1441	52	-3
26	Hungary (HUN)	1723	25	-1	56	India (IND)	1436	53	-3
27	Belgium (BEL)	1718	27	0	57	Greece (GRE)	1426	54	-3
28	Serbia and Montenegro (YUG)	1713	26	-2	58	Indonesia (IDN)	1415	55	-3
29	Switzerland (SUI)	1704	29	0	59	Papua New Guinea (PNG)	1411	-	-
30	Scotland (SCO)	1691	32	+2	60	Kazakhstan (KAZ)	1404	56	-4



## FIFA WORLD RANKING

1	Brazil	834	1	0	1	0	51	Wales	558	50	-1	52	1
2	France	814	2	0	2	0	52	Côte d'Ivoire	555	59	7	64	12
3	Spain	762	2	-1	3	0	53	New Zealand	550	51	-2	49	-4
4	Argentina	754	5	1	5	1	54	Trinidad and Tobago	549	52	-2	47	-7
5	Netherlands	752	6	1	6	1	55	Slovakia	544	53	-2	55	0
6	Germany	745	4	-2	4	-2	55	Venezuela	544	63	8	69	14
7	Turkey	733	8	1	9	2	55	Austria	544	61	6	54	-1
8	England	727	7	-1	7	-1	58	Congo DR	541	65	7	65	7
9	United States	717	10	1	10	1	59	Iceland	538	70	11	58	-1
10	Czech Republic	712	13	3	15	5	59	Scotland	538	64	5	58	-1
11	Italy	711	12	1	13	2	61	Zimbabwe	536	55	-6	56	-5
11	Mexico	711	9	-2	8	-3	62	Estonia	534	61	-1	60	-2
13	Denmark	710	10	-3	12	-1	63	Cuba	532	56	-7	71	8
14	Ireland Republic	703	15	1	14	0	64	Iraq	531	56	-8	53	-11
15	Portugal	692	14	-1	11	-4	65	Thailand	529	59	-6	66	1
16	Cameroon	691	18	2	16	0	65	Guatemala	529	58	-7	78	13
17	Belgium	672	16	-1	17	0	67	Zambia	526	69	2	66	-1
18	Costa Rica	663	17	-1	21	3	68	Algeria	522	66	-2	68	0
18	Sweden	663	20	2	24	6	69	Ghana	513	-67	-2	60	-9
20	Paraguay	657	19	-1	18	-2	70	Chile	510	73	3	84	14
21	Romania	652	27	6	24	3	70	China PR	510	68	-2	63	-7
22	Colombia	651	39	17	37	15	72	Burkina Faso	508	83	11	75	3
23	Norway	648	24	1	26	3	73	Mali	505	74	1	73	0
24	Japan	643	23	-1	22	-2	74	Qatar	499	71	-3	62	-12
24	Korea Republic	643	21	-3	20	-4	75	Bosnia-Herzegovina	495	72	-3	87	12
26	Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76	Kenya	493	78	2	80	4
27	Serbia and Montenegro	636	22	-5	19	-8	77	Jordan	489	75	-2	77	0
28	Senegal	633	29	1	27	-1	78	Canada	482	77	-1	70	-8
29	Slovenia	628	36	7	36	7	79	Latvia	481	79	0	78	-1
30	Russia	627	25	-5	22	-8	80	Peru	480	81	1	82	2
31	Nigeria	626	32	1	29	-2	81	Angola	479	86	5	76	-5
31	Uruguay	626	28	-3	28	-3	82	Belarus	478	76	-6	74	-8
33	South Africa	619	31	-2	30	-3	83	Cyprus	474	88	5	80	-3
33	Greece	619	45	12	48	15	84	Haiti	473	80	-4	71	-13
33	Poland	619	29	-4	33	0	85	El Salvador	469	82	-3	94	9
36	Ecuador	616	33	-3	31	-5	86	Togo	468	92	6	85	-1
37	Morocco	613	38	1	35	-2	86	Georgia	468	84	-2	90	4
38	Bulgaria	612	35	-3	42	4	88	Albania	466	89	1	93	5
39	Egypt	606	44	5	39	0	89	Indonesia	465	84	-5	110	21
40	Switzerland	605	43	3	44	4	90	Macedonia FYR	461	93	3	85	-5
41	Iran	600	34	-7	33	-8	91	Kuwait	455	87	-4	83	-8
42	Honduras	596	37	-5	40	-2	91	Libya	455	97	6	104	13
42	Tunisia	596	40	-2	41	-1	93	Syria	445	90	-3	91	-2
44	Israel	593	40	-4	46	2	94	Barbados	442	94	0	99	5
45	Finland	585	45	0	43	-2	95	United Arab Emirates	439	90	-5	89	-6
46	Saudi Arabia	581	42	-4	38	-8	95	Vietnam SR	439	95	0	108	13
47	Ukraine	579	47	0	45	-2	95	Singapore	439	98	3	118	23
48	Jamaica	571	48	0	51	3	98	Liberia	438	96	-2	88	-10
49	Hungary	570	54	5	56	7	99	Lithuania	427	99	0	100	1
50	Australia	562	49	-1	50	0	100	Congo	423	100	0	97	-3

# PREMIER LEAGUE

## KICKS-OFF IN STYLE

